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TABLE OF CONTENTS

COVER: MALLARDS, by Ludo Bogaert - a page out of his sketchbook

COVER STORY: TWO DECADES OF MALLARDS ON ALBERTA CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS, by Martin K. McNicholl 1

EDITOR'S PAGE, by Martin K. McNicholl 4

1979 ALBERTA FLOWERING DATES, by C.D. Bird 5

ALBERTA CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS - 1979, by Virginia Lang Young 8

THE 1979 MAY SPECIES COUNT - BIRD AND MAMMALS, by Allen N. Wiseley 17

RESULTS OF THE 1979 MAY DAY COUNT (PLANTS), by J. Derek Johnson . . . 31

ALBERTA CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE PRAIRIE NEST RECORDS SCHEME - 1979, by Martin K. McNicholl 42

DEADLINES FOR PROJECT REPORTS 43

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TWO DECADES OF MALLARDS ON ALBERTA CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

by Martin K. McNicholl
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Although we have come to expect several species of waterfowl to turn up each year on Alberta Christmas bird counts, especially at Calgary and Lake Wabamun, I tend to think of ducks as essentially migrants with a few individuals failing to migrate. Imagine my surprise, then, when I searched Young's (1980) Table 1 for the species with the highest total on any single count in 1979 to find it was the Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*)! Of course, I was aware from the studies of Sugden *et al.* (1974) that large numbers of Mallards now winter in Calgary, but I didn't expect them to outnumber "legitimate" winter birds.

I thought it might be worthwhile to see whether Mallards had increased substantially in winter in recent years. Thus, I compiled numbers of Mallards observed each year from the past 2 decades on the only counts in Alberta conducted every year during that period: Calgary and Edmonton (see McNicholl 1976 for a partial list of counts in Alberta). Table 1 shows that both counts have had Mallards regularly for some time, with numbers in Calgary ranging from 309 in 1968 to 10078 in 1978, and in Edmonton from 9 in 1961 to 846 in 1979, except in 1962, the only year in which none were counted in Edmonton. Numbers average higher in recent years on both counts, but both show marked fluctuations, presumably related to the factors which induce them to stay: availability of food, open water and protection from hunting (Sugden *et al.* 1974). As firearms cannot be discharged legally within city limits, the latter factor does not change significantly from year to year, and does not differ between cities. Calgary's milder winters probably explain the larger numbers wintering there than in Edmonton in part, but also much more artificial feeding takes place in Calgary (Sugden *et al.* 1974). Observer effort, as measured in birds per party-hour and birds per observer may have some influence on numbers, but in Calgary, where the greater fluctuations in bird numbers occur, birds per unit effort also fluctuate in spite of generally increasing numbers of observers. Birds per unit effort vary less in Edmonton, but numbers of birds are smaller there.

Whatever the causes in changing numbers, Mallards are clearly a winter species in Alberta in spite of the fact that many do still leave the province for warmer areas.

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TABLE 1. Mallards and Observer Effort on Calgary and Edmonton Christmas Bird Counts, 1959-1979

YEAR	CALGARY				EDMONTON			
	NO.	HOURS[1]	OBSERV.[2]	SOURCE[3]	NO.	HOURS[1]	OBSERV.[2]	SOURCE[3]
1959	1727	29(60)	8(215)	Beacham 1960	45	41(1)	24(2)	Steele 1960
1960	1204	32(38)	18(67)	Beacham 1961	59	33(2)	21(3)	Demulder 1961
1961	1501	24(63)	10(150)	Beacham 1962	9	25(0)	15(1)	Blades 1962
1962	1516	36(42)	11(137)	Beacham 1963	0	60(0)	28(0)	Turner 1963
1963	5932	28(212)	12(494)	Beacham 1964	120	51(2)	30(4)	Turner 1964
1964	4018	40(100)	14(287)	Beacham 1965	65	40(2)	19(3)	Turner 1965
1965	865	43(20)	15(58)	Beacham 1966	60	38(2)	19(3)	Turner 1966
1966	1619	48(34)	24(68)	Beacham 1967	60	44(1)	20(3)	Turner 1967
1967	506	49(10)	19(27)	Beacham 1968	250	42(6)	8(31)	Turner 1968
1968	309	35(9)	14(22)	Halladay 1969	42	44(1)	19(2)	Turner 1969
1969	1109	54(21)	26(43)	Halladay 1970	174	63(3)	26(7)	Turner 1970
1970	719	31(23)	30(24)	Halladay 1971	114	39(3)	20(6)	Turner 1971
1971	1628	24(68)	38(24)	Halladay 1972	113	61(2)	33(3)	Turner 1972
1972	1623	68(24)	34(47)	Halladay 1973	67	66(1)	32(2)	Turner 1973
1973	2500	78(32)	40(63)	Halladay 1974	337	79(4)	36(9)	Turner 1974
1974	4623	75(62)	43(108)	Halladay 1975	109	99(1)	43(3)	Turner 1975
1975	2410	91(27)	40(60)	Halladay 1976	60	77(2)	36(2)	Bembridge 1976
1976	1815	120(15)	47(39)	Halladay 1977	139	170(1)	66(2)	Bembridge 1977
1977	4086	137(3)	50(82)	Halladay 1978	92	146(1)	54(2)	Bembridge 1978
1978	10078	120(83)	52(193)	Halladay 1979	117	143(1)	53(2)	Pilarski 1979
1979	7972	----	37(216)	Young 1980	846	78(11)	53(16)	Young 1980

[1]party-hours (Mallards/party-hour)

[2]no. of observers (Mallards/observer)

[3]several of these counts were also published in local newsletters or journals.

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EDITOR'S PAGE

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Herewith is the second annual research supplement of the Alberta Naturalist. In today's society of environmental crises, this publishing effort is an important record of FAN activities. Unlike many of the emotion-based sensationalist conservation groups, stands by naturalist groups on particular issues should be based on personal experience and field research. The naturalist speaks as an expert professional or amateur observer of nature, not merely on the basis of emotional appeal. This brings greater credibility to the concerns of naturalists when these concerns are raised in public debate. Many naturalists do not have the time, inclination or finances for individual research, but all can contribute to cooperative projects under the umbrella of FAN and similar organizations. Such projects are the subject of this volume, which thus serves as a record that FAN does conduct serious research.

This supplement should function not only as a research record, but also as incentive for naturalists to participate. In order to serve the latter function better, I intend to endeavor to have this issue out in early April in 1981. This is just on time for the beginning of the plant phenology project and also in time for the May counts and the Prairie Nest Records Scheme. But this will be possible only if cooperators endeavor to meet deadlines published near the end of this issue. At least two reports in this issue were delayed by material trickling in after the original was written. I shall "nag" readers with a reminder of deadlines in the FAN news section of each issue of the Alberta Naturalist.

I must note that publication of Alberta Christmas counts in one table with an overall text constitutes one new publication, not a duplication of publications in American Birds or local journals. As with any other publication the data should be supplied to the author of the Alberta summary as a copy of the original and cited in the text and table with the original as the source publication. For example, the Wabamun count would be cited as Ebel (in press), and listed in the references as: Ebel, G.R.A. in press. The eightieth Audubon Christmas bird count. Wabamun Lake, Alberta. Amer. Birds, or if already published in a local journal, cited as such.

Finally, I once again urge all members to take part in those projects they find feasible, and to meet deadlines!

1979 ALBERTA FLOWERING DATES

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by C.D. Bird
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The present report details the information obtained from the FAN Phenology Project in 1979, the seventh year of its operation. Yearly summaries of the earlier results may be found in the Alberta Naturalist (4:7-14; 5:4-23; 6:3-27; 7:11-19; 8:9-26; 9:2-19).

The Project is designed to obtain a monitor of the time of occurrence of particular biological events so that one can tell when these can be expected each year and also so that one can tell, in a given year, if the progress of spring or early summer is advanced, average, or retarded. The data provide a base for comparison with other biological events, such as bird activities, and has agricultural applications.

Originally more complex with one hundred species being monitored in 1973, the Project has become more streamlined as the number has been gradually reduced to the 12 key species presently covered. These are all native, widespread, easy-to-identify plants that have been found to provide good information.

Table 1 presents the full range of the 1979 data according to the locations in each area from which there were 1979 observations: Waterton Lakes National Park - general, Horseshoe Basin; Milk River - Writing-on-stone Provincial Park; Cardston - Lee Creek; Crowsnest Pass - Beauvais Lake, Crowsnest Pass, Lundbreck, West Castle Ski Resort; Lethbridge - Ft. Macleod, Ft. Whoop-up, Lethbridge, 6 Mile Coulee; Medicine Hat - Dinosaur Provincial Park; Turner Valley - Bragg Creek, Longview; Bow-Crow Forest Reserve - Barrier Reservoir, Fortress Mountain, Lusk Creek, Wasooch Creek; Calgary - Balzac, Calgary, Cochrane, Conrich, Ghost Dam; Canmore - Canmore, Exshaw, Seebe, Yamnuska; Drumheller - Eagle Lake, Keoma; Banff National Park - Banff, Johnson's Canyon, Marvel Lake, Moraine Lake; Red Deer - Lacombe, Red Deer;

TABLE 1.

	Prairie Crocus	Aspen	Early Blue Violet	Golden Bean	Saskatoon	Star-flowered Solomon's seal	Choke Cherry	Yellow Pea Vine	Northern Bedstraw	Common Yarrow	Western Wood Lily	Brown-eyed Susan
Waterton Lakes National Park	Jn8		Jn8	Jn8	Jn8	Jn8	Jn8			Se10-19		Se11-18
Cardston	Ap15-My25		My12-Jy7	My16-Jn25	My21-Jn15	My25-Jn15	Jn5-17	My26-Jy15	Jn16-Se10	Jn20-Se15	Jy1-15	Jn22-Se10
Crowsnest Pass						My13-Jn4				Jn24-Se19		Jn24-Se18
Lethbridge	Ap7-Jn3 Se10	Jn4	My4-26	Ap28-Jn22	My21-Jn10	My26-Jn19	My26-Jn14	Jn4-23	Jn3-20	My31-Jn20		My20-Se20
Medicine Hat	Jy15									Jy15		
Turner Valley	Mr24 Jn2		Jn2	My14-Jn2	My30	Jn2			Au15	Au15		
Bow-Crow Forest Reserve	Jn3		Jn3		Jn3				Jy22	Jn30-Jy22	Jn30-Jy22	Jy22
Calgary	Mr30-Jy4	Ap24-My11	My2-Jn12	My2-Jy2	My17-Jn18	My26-Jy8	My24-Jn15	Jn10-Jy22	Jn10-Au18	Jn11-Se10	Jn29-Jy21	Jn15-Oc18
Canmore	Ap12-My27 Se17		My26-Jn15 Se17		My26-Jn18	Jn13-Jy3	Jn15	Jn15	Jy3-29	Jn15-Se12	Jy3-23	Jy3-Se17
Drumheller	Ap15-My13											
Banff National Park	My26-27	My26-27	My26-27		My26-Jy8	My26-Jy8		Jy8		Jy7-18		
Red Deer	Mr31-My27	Ap28-My27	My13-Jn10	My13-Jy14	My27-Jn21	Jn3-21	Jn5-15	Jn5-Jy24	Jn27-Au27	Jn27-Au27	Jy1-22	Jy7-Au27
Rocky Mountain House	Jn7-9		My19-Jn20		Jn4-18	Jn3-Jy8	Jn18	Jn4-Au19	Jn22-Au30	Jn22-Oc31	Jy3-Au7	
Wainwright	Ap22-My26		My26-Jn17	My26-Jn17	My26-Jn17	Jn10-Jn17	Jn10-Jn17	Jn10-Jn17		Jn17		
Stettler	Ap26-My26	Ap30-My22	My13-Jn19	My17-Jn30	My21-Jn7	Jn3-16	Jn4-20	Jn11-20	Jn20-Jy3	Jy1-Au9	Jy10-13	Jy2-Au9
Jasper National Park	My26-27		My26-27			My26-27	My26-27	My26-27				
Edmonton		Ap26-My14	My25-Jn18		My25-Jn18	Jn20-Jy2	Jn13-20	My27-Jy5	Jn27-Au13	Jn27-Se27	Jn30-Jy5	Jy1-5
Whitecourt									Au13-22	Au13-Se5		
Peace River	Ap25-My27	My9-27	My20-Jn11		My26-Au15	Jn20-Jn8	My26-Jn8	My26-Jy16	Jn26-Jy25	Jn8-Oc3	Jn16-Jy25	Jy8-25
Fort McMurray	My27	My27	My27		My27							

TABLE 2. First flowering dates of the twelve phenology species in the six best reported Alberta areas

		Lethbridge Area	Calgary Area	Red Deer Area	Stettler Area	Edmonton Area	Peace River Area
Prairie Crocus	1979	Ap7	Mr30	Mr31	Ap26		Ap25
	6 yr avg	Ap11	Ap13	Ap14	Ap16	Ap16	
Aspen	1979		Ap24	Ap28	Ap30	Ap26	My9
	6 yr avg		Ap9	Ap30	Ap18	Ap16	
Early Blue Violet	1979	My4	My2	My13	My13	My25	My20
	6 yr avg	My3	Ap27	My5	My2	My4	
Golden Bean	1979	Ap28	My2	My13	My17		
	6 yr avg	Ap24	Ap27	My13	My8	My10	
Saskatoon	1979	My26	My17	My27	My21	My25	My26
	6 yr avg	My10	My10	My23	My18	My17	
Star-flowered Solomon's-seal	1979	My26	My26	Jn3	Jn3	Jn20	Jn8
	6 yr avg	My20	My12	My27	My31	Jn2	
Choke Cherry	1979	My26	My24	Jn5	Jn4	Jn13	My26
	6 yr avg	My23	My23	My30	My28	My24	
Yellow Pea Vine	1979	Jn4	Jn10	Jn5	Jn11	My27	My26
	6 yr avg	Jn4	Jn1	Jn3	Jn1	My26	
Northern Bedstraw	1979	Jn3	Jn10	Jn27	Jn20	Jn27	Jn26
	6 yr avg	Jn14	Jn6	Jn18	Jn10	Jn14	
Common Yarrow	1979	My31	Jn11	Jn27	Jy1	Jn27	Jn8
	6 yr avg	My31	Jn5	Jn19	Jn14	Jn23	
Western Wood Lily	1979		Jn29	Jy1	Jy10	Jn30	Jn16
	6 yr avg		Jn19	Jn25	Jn26	Jn27	
Brown-eyed Susan	1979	My20	Jn15	Jy7	Jy2	Jy1	Jy8
	6 yr avg	Jn4	Jn16	Jy6	Jn27	Jy6	

Rocky Mountain House - Burnt Timber Creek, Drayton Valley, Mountain Aire Lodge, Nordegg, Winfield, Ya-ha-tinda Ranch; Wainwright - Islay; Stettler - Mirror, Nevis, White Sands; Jasper National Park - general; Edmonton - Edmonton; Whitecourt - Fox Creek, Swan Hills, Whitecourt; Peace River - Beaverlodge, Dimsdale, Dunvegan, Grande Prairie, Kleskun Hills, Peace River, Saskatoon Island Provincial Park, Wembley; and Fort McMurray - Fort McMurray. There were no reports from the Milk River, Porcupine Hills, Camrose, Athabasca, and Cold Lake areas and only scanty reports from the Waterton Lakes National Park, Crowsnest Pass, Medicine Hat, Turner Valley, Bow-Crow Forest Reserve, Drumheller, Banff National Park, Jasper National Park, Whitecourt, and Fort McMurray areas.

The following 104 persons made observations during 1979: P. Achuff, Vera Barritt, M.W. Battrum, Darla Beazer, Ann Bird, C.D. Bird, Lilian Bird, John Boyle, Sheila Boyle, Allan Brooks, R.J. Butot, Cindy Chapman, Margaret Clarke, Joyce Cole, K. Cole, L. Cole, I. Corns, Mary Coughlin, Ellen Craig, G. Craig, Lorna Dahl, R. Dahl, Anna deGraaf, D. deGraaf, Daphne Denton, S. Denton, T. dePeuter, D. Dew, Margaret DeWitt, Patricia Dixon, B.S. Donegan, J. Dyck, A. Fisher, B. Gordon, Ruth Gordon, Bob Grier, B. Hall, Liz Hall, Beryl Hallworth, Pat Harney, Helen Harris, C. Harrowing, Ruth Harrowing, Elizabeth Holroyd, G. Holroyd, Hazel Hudson, Mary Hughes, P.A. Hurdle, Helen Johnson, J.D. Johnson, G. Kerr, J. LaValley, Jean Lee, G. Lehman, Mary Lore, W. MacAlister, Yvonne MacAlister, G. Machell, D.J. Mackintosh, K. MacLennan, Lilian MacLennan, Virginia Maitland, A.H. Marsh, J. Marsh, Jean McCall, Cathy McGlashan, Diane McIvor, M. McIvor, Kay Morck, A. Moreside, E. Moreside, Bunty Nelson, Grace Norgard, R. Oakey, Marg Oliver, Charlene Orr, Shelly Orr, Cathy Osborne, Doris Rhodes, J. Riddell, Hazel Ross, Ellie Schmidt, S. Scott, Louise Seely, K. Shaw, Shirley Shaw, Mary Smith, R. Smith, Vivienne Smith, Allison Sponholz, A. Stiles, D. Stiles, Anita Stringam, P. Sullivan, R. Sweet, J. Turner, Anke Vandenbeld, Margaret Walker, R. Watmough, Kathleen Wilkinson, K. Wood, Marjorie Wood, E. Zoltai, and S.C. Zoltai.

Table 2 provides the 1979 first flowering, and 1973-1979 average, dates for the six best reported areas in 1979. These data show that in the Lethbridge area spring started a bit early in April, was late in May, then became quite early in June, this latter feature coinciding with a period of extended drought. Farther north the season started late and continued late right into summer.

A green form is enclosed for the recording of data for 1980. Please remove it, pin it on a bulletin board or keep in a handy place, jot down dates as the season progresses, then, at the end of summer, mail to the FAN Phenology Coordinator. Extra copies may be obtained through the member clubs and from the Coordinator. Though designed especially for repeated use on a farm, acreage, or other pet area, the form can also be used on once-only trips to particular areas; in fact, users are urged to do so as the data obtained may not otherwise be recorded.

ALBERTA CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS - 1979

---

by Virginia Lang Young
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Ninety-one bird species[1] were recorded by 319 observers participating in fourteen 1979 Alberta Christmas Bird Counts. Missing this year were counts from Drumheller and Ft. McMurray, but three new areas - Cowley, Erskine and Porcupine Hills - were surveyed.

The number of species reported is not exceptional - up four from last year's total, the same as 1977's total. Observer numbers were down slightly, but not surprisingly considering the inclement weather encountered during several counts.

Noteworthy is the relatively low numbers of individual birds reported. Last year approximately 65,000 individuals were reported, whereas this year the tally is closer to 36,000, down 29,000 birds. The number of individuals increased on a number of counts. However, Edmonton's count total was down 22,000 birds from last year although the number of observers was comparable. Calgary dropped 11,000 with 15 fewer observers.

As for the highest number of species reported, Calgary did not repeat their resounding victory (by 16 species) of last year, but they did manage to retain the Turner/Halladay Trophy by four species.

Table 1 shows species which have been reported on counts during the last six years, but were not seen on this year's counts. Among surprises are the lack of Redhead or Ring-necked Ducks. However, a bird of one of these species was seen on the Wabamun Lake count, but a positive identification could not be made. The lack of Cedar Waxwings matches relatively low numbers of Bohemian Waxwings reported (approximately 8,250, down some 21,000 from last year). The absence of Hoary Redpoll reports is no surprise considering the relative scarcity of Common Redpolls throughout the Province this winter.

On the other hand, species which were reported on this year's counts but not on the previous six years' counts include not only unusual winter occurrences, but possible "firsts" for the province.

The Ross' Goose wintering in Calgary is a rarity, although not a first for Alberta Christmas Bird Counts. One was recorded on the Calgary count in 1954 (Halladay 1980).

For the Turkeys reported from Porcupine Hills we can thank not only the intrepid count participants, but the Fish and Wildlife Division as well. During 1973 and 1974, a total of 108 of these birds were released in the Porcupine Hills. After an initial decline in numbers, the population increased to about 200 by 1977, and has stabilized since then (Pyle 1979).

The dead Black-legged Kittiwake found on the Lake Wabamun count is surely a first for Christmas Bird Counts in Alberta, if not a first winter record for the Province.

No additional data accompanied the Screech Owl report from the Lethbridge count.

The Chestnut-backed Chickadee found by the Waterton Lakes Park Naturalist does not represent the first report of this species for the Province (it is on Salt and Salt's 1976 Hypothetical List) but, to my knowledge, it's a first for Alberta Christmas Bird Counts. (A LNS member has indicated AN readers will be hearing more on that report).

Six American Goldfinches were reported from Edmonton on their count day, and ten were seen in Lethbridge during the count period. It will be interesting to find out whether these Alberta reports are isolated or if goldfinches were widely reported north of their more usual winter range.

TABLE 1. Species reported on Alberta Christmas Bird Counts 1973-1978 but not reported in 1979

	# Counts Reporting Species in 1973	# Counts Reporting Species in 1974	# Counts Reporting Species in 1975	# Counts Reporting Species in 1976	# Counts Reporting Species in 1977	# Counts Reporting Species in 1978
Common Loon						1
Eared Grebe					1	
Whistling Swan				1		
Swan sp.		1				
Black Duck		1				
Wood Duck				1		
Redhead			1	1	1	1
Ring-necked Duck			1	1	1	1
Oldsquaw	1					
Ruddy Duck				1		
Red-br. Merganser					2	
Sharp-shinned Hawk				1	2	1
Red-tailed Hawk				1		1
Swainson's Hawk				1		
Marsh Hawk						1
Peregrine Falcon	1					
American Kestrel					2	1
Willow Ptarmigan						1
American Avocet			1			
Glaucous Gull					1	
Barred Owl					1	
Saw-whet Owl				1	2	
Pygmy Nuthatch				1		
Winter Wren		1		1		
Ruby-crowned Kinglet		1				
Cedar Waxwing	1	1	2	1	1	3
Western Meadowlark					1	
Red-winged Blackbird						1
Brewer's Blackbird				1	1	
Purple Finch		1		1		
Hoary Redpoll	2	1	3	3	5	3
Rufous-sided Towhee						1
White-crowned Sparrow					1	
Lapland Longspur					1	
Longspur sp.			1			

As is the case in most years, mammal sightings were reported on some counts (see individual count reports following). The following suggestion may be met with disapproval by bird count "traditionalist", but some interesting - and perhaps even useful - data could be amassed if we made a point of reporting mammals and mammal signs observed during the course of our bird counts.

[1]Editor's Note: Names are those used by the American Ornithologists' Union 1957 Checklist of North American Birds. Fifth ed. Amer. Ornithol. Union, Baltimore, except where modified by Eisenman *et al.* 1973, Auk 90:411-419. - M.K.M.

Totals of species observed on 1979 counts are listed in Table 2.

Details of each count, as forwarded to me, are listed below. If additional details are required, check with the individual count compilers.

BANFF/CANMORE

Center on Bow River 4.5 miles east of Banff in Banff National Park; elevation 4400 to 9836 ft.; habitat coverage: woodland 75%, marsh 10%, residential 10%, old fields 3%, river 2%.

16 December, 8 am to 6 pm. Mostly cloudy, temperature -12 to -25°C, wind west, 20 kph and gusting. Snow cover 6 to 24". Fresh water partly open. Wild food crop fair. Thirty-four observers, 26 in 7 parties, 8 at feeders. Total party-hours 89 (70 on foot, 19 by car) plus 40 hours at feeders; total party-miles 188 (61 on foot, 127 by car).

Observers: Ray Andrews, Gordon Burles, Gordon Burns, Ed and Dorothy Carleton, John and Margot Carpenter, Doris and Keith Cole, Peter Davidson, Halle Flygare, Rob Gardiner, Fran Grainger, Helen Herrle, Liz and Geoff Holroyd (compiler, Box 1343, Banff, Alta. TOL 0C0), Stewart Johnston, Rhonda Markel, Keith McDougall, Margie McDougall, Diane and Mike McIvor, Harold and Julie Mortimer, Nancy Murray, Julie Murphy, Brian and Louise Patton, Jamie Podlubny, Morna Schectal, Ron Seale, Gerrie Wilkie.

BOW SUMMIT

51°39'N 116°25'W, center south end of Bow Lake in Banff National Park, including Peyto, Bow and Hector lakes and Helen and Mosquito creeks; habitat coverage: coniferous woodland 80%, alpine meadow 19%, river and lake 29%. Elevation 5700 to 10741 ft.

30 December, 9 am to 4:30 pm. AM clear, PM mostly clear. Temperature 1° to 10°F. Wind South 0-5 mph. Snow cover 30-42". Fresh water partly open. Wild food crop fair. Seventeen observers, in 6 parties. Total party-hours 55, 48.5 on foot, 6.5 by car. Total party-miles 202, 57 on foot, 145 by car.

Observers: Nicholas Allen, Allan Brooks, Dave and Margaret Donald, Jenny Feick, Rob Gardner, Elizabeth and Geoff Holroyd, Stuart Johnston, Lloyd Lohr, Diane and Mike McIvor (compiler, Box 114, Banff, Alta. TOL 0C0), Jackie Morriss, Jamey Podlubny, Ron Seale, Greg Wagner, Gerry Wilkie.

CALGARY

16 December. 12:50 am - 5:00 pm. -14°C to -6°C. Winds light and variable, the sky became overcast during the day, and there was an official 16 cm of snow on the ground.

TABLE 2. Birds observed on the 1979 Alberta Christmas Bird Counts

	BANFF/CANMORE	BOW ISLAND	BOW SUMMIT	CALGARY	COWLEY	EDMONTON	ERSKINE	GRANDE PRAIRIE	LETHBRIDGE	PORCUPINE HILLS	RED DEER	STETTLER	WABAMUN LAKE*	WATERTON LAKES NATIONAL PARK	WILDLIFE RESERVE
Horned Grebe													+		
Western Grebe													+		
Pied-billed Grebe													+		
Canada Goose				50					113						
Ross' Goose				1											
Mallard	200		3	7972	10	846			650				+		
Gadwall				7									+		
Pintail	1								1				+		
Green-winged Teal				5		1									
Blue-winged Teal	3														
American Wigeon				7									+		
Northern Shoveler													+		
Canvasback						1									
Lesser Scaup				1									+		
Common Goldeneye	3			841		84			20				+	11	
Barrow's Goldeneye				3					8				+		
Bufflehead				1									+		
Hooded Merganser													+		
Common Merganser	1			19					4						
Goshawk	2			4		1		1			1	1	+		2
Cooper's Hawk													+		
Rough-legged Hawk				2		2				1				2	3
Golden Eagle									5				+	2	1
Bald Eagle	2			3					2			2	+		
Gyrfalcon													+		
Prairie Falcon				3					4	1					1
Merlin				3		5			3	2					
Spruce Grouse			4												
Ruffed Grouse				1		8	1	5			21	3	+	3	26
Wht.-tailed Ptarmigan			1												
Sharp-tailed Grouse				3				2	4		3	27	+	1	7
Ring-necked Pheasant				11		23		2	26	3	4				
Gray Partridge				67	8	218	26		47		26	10			
Turkey										13					
American Coot				1									+		
Killdeer	1													2	
Common Snipe	1														
Blk.-legged Kittiwake													+		
Rock Dove	1			1053		1009	45	50	467	13	143	161	+		66
Screech Owl									1						
Great Horned Owl				2	2	8	3		5		1	4		1	6
Snowy Owl				1		3		2	4	3	1				
Hawk Owl			1									1			
Pygmy Owl															1
Great Gray Owl															1
Short-eared Owl				1		19	1					3			1
Boreal Owl											1				
Belted Kingfisher	2														

TABLE 2 continued

	BANFF/CANMORE	BOW ISLAND	BOW SUMMIT	CALGARY	COWLEY	EDMONTON	ERSKINE	GRANDE PRAIRIE	LETHBRIDGE	PORCUPINE HILLS	RED DEER	STETTLER	WABABUN LAKE	WATERTON LAKES NATIONAL PARK	WILDLIFE RESERVE
Common Flicker				8		4			11						
Pileated Woodpecker						5					2		+	2	4
Hairy Woodpecker	11			3		14	2	3	1		8	3	+	13	10
Downy Woodpecker	8			16	1	49	4	2	5	1	11	4	+	12	18
Nor. 3-toed Woodpecker	6		1												4
Blk.-bk. 3-toed Woodpecker						1					1				
Horned Lark									82	4					
Gray Jay	20		11							11			+	15	62
Blue Jay						127		7	5+		24		+		17
Steller's Jay	1													12	
Black-billed Magpie	95			523	18	725	49	15	447	67	89	76	+	22	219
Common Raven	228		9	26					5	12				8	36
Common Crow	10			27					12						
Clark's Nutcracker	24		9											4	
Black-capped Chickadee	81			369	3	693	17	10	68	7	237	27	+	42	444
Mountain Chickadee	93		6	6					1	1				14	9
Boreal Chickadee	58		45	20		3					14		+		135
Chestnut-backed Chickadee													4		
White-breasted Nuthatch	4			4		9					3		+		14
Red-breasted Nuthatch	3		5	8		17			6	1	6		+	2	33
Brown Creeper	5			5		8			1		2		+		10
American Dipper	27		2	2					1					5	4
American Robin									1						
Varied Thrush				1											
Townsend's Solitaire	9														
Golden-crowned Kinglet	2		3	16		8				8	4		+	3	68
Bohemian Waxwing	147			2451		5021		21	233		297	55	+	2	
Northern Shrike										1			+		2
Common Starling	1			109		207	12		132	3			+		10
House Sparrow	208			800	11	1316	100		1152+	195		171	+		184
Rusty Blackbird	1														
Evening Grosbeak	58			54		129		35			129		+		3
Pine Grosbeak	14		9			4					35		+		52
Common Redpoll						23					56		+	20+	
Pine Siskin						14									
American Goldfinch						6									
Red Crossbill	5		9			6									24
White-winged Crossbill			3	50							30		+		75
Dark-eyed Junco	5			5		23								2	2
Tree Sparrow															3
White-throated Sparrow	1														
Song Sparrow						3									
Snow Bunting				47				150	22	2	6	370		1	21
TOTAL NUMBER OF SPECIES	38		16	47	8	38	11	14	35	20	27	16	44	25	37
TOTAL NUMBER INDIVIDUALS	1342		121	14612	53	10643	260	305	3549	349	1155	918		205	1578
TOTAL NUMBER OBSERVERS	34		17	37	2	56	12	11	50	3	16	23	11	9	38

*Wabamun Lake data unavailable to the author

297 party-miles, 82 on foot, 210 by car and 5 by ski.

Observers: Elizabeth, Des and Peter Allen, Hattie Boothman, Rudi Butot, Barry Burrows, Loralei and James Byatt, Doug Collister, Elizabeth Dawson-Grove, George Dutton, Les Eliuk, Jenny Fieck, Art Fisher, Willis Hall, Ian Halladay (compiler), Cedric Hitchon, Gordon Kerr, Barbara and Mary Koncohrada, Sue Lawrence, David Matthews, Andy and Jim Minty, Bill Munro, Bob Nixon, Gail Norton, Cathy Osborne, John Price, Ed Quist, Peter Sherrington, Andrew Slater, Jack Steeves, Andrew, Don and Phillip Stiles, Al Wiseley.

COWLEY

26 December. Observers: Jack and Cathy Sandeman.

EDMONTON

16 December. Temperature -10 to 0°F. Snow cover 2 to 24". 53 observers in 27 parties, 2 observers at feeders. Party-hours 77-3/4 on foot, 43½ by car, 7 by ski, 11 at feeders. Party-miles, 97½ on foot, 369½ by car, 6-3/4 by ski. Compiler, Linda Pilarski.

Seen during count period but not on count day: Red-tailed Hawk.

ERSKINE

15 miles diameter center NW32-37-21-W4 6 miles south and 4 miles west of Erskine. 23 December. Temperature -5°C, cloudy, wind south, up to 30 cm snow cover. 15 party hours, 70 party miles by car, 2 party miles by ski.

Seen during count period but not on count day: Sharp-tailed Grouse, Ring-necked Pheasant, Evening Grosbeak.

Observers: Bertha Clarke, Art Haywood, Wilf Hewlett, Martha and Ron Kruger, Bea and Marvin Lohr, Lloyd Lohr (compiler), Bob and Bruce Marshall, Don Strandquist, Brent Wylie.

GRANDE PRAIRIE

Wembley and south to Pipestone Creek on Wapiti River, Beaverlodge to Grande Prairie, Clairmont, NW side of NW5-72-7-W6, Grande Prairie, NW5-72-7-W6 and North and East sides of Saskatoon Mountain, Grande Prairie.

15 and 16 December. Temperatures, -40° with NW wind on 15th; moderating to -28°C on 16th. 6-8" snow cover. Approximately 81 party miles.

Observers: Gavin and Ellen Craig (compiler, RR#1, Wembley, Alta. TOH 3SO), Bill, Josie and Dorothy Dahl, Rob and Lorna Dahl, Margaret Flaman, Lorna Nellis, Brent and Brenda Watson.

LETHBRIDGE

Lethbridge and within a fifty mile radius (Cardston, Chin, Claresholm, Coaldale, Park Lake, Picture Butte and Vauxhall). Habitats: residential areas, parks, river valley, coulees, prairie, lakes and marsh.

26 December. Temperature 4°C to 5°C, Wind west 43 to 56 km. Scattered clouds, windy, very little snow cover.

Seen during count period but not on count day: Goshawk, Rough-legged Hawk, Peregrine Falcon, Ruffed Grouse, Steller's Jay, White-breasted Nuthatch, Cedar Waxwing, Evening Grosbeak, Gray-crowned Rosy Finch, American Goldfinch, Dark-eyed Junco, Tree Sparrow, Clark's Nutcracker.

Observers: Shirley Arner, Kate Beaty, Darren Banasch, Bob Blair, Dale Blair, Douglas Chiperzak, Barry Clark, Dorothy Clark, Terry Clark, Betty Haig, Bill Haire, Ian Haire, Jean Haire, Bob Hall, Jackie Hall, Liz Hall, Alice Harper, Frank Harper, Shawna Harper, Hazel Hudson, Jennie Kerr, Betty Luco, George Luco, Duncan Mackintosh, A.J. McHugh, J.C. McHugh, Ray McHugh, Sheila McHugh, Bill McKay, Bud McKillop, Lois McKillop, Cara Moser, Grant Nelson, Grace Norgard, Sheila Petherbridge, Doris Rhodes, Alan Roberts, Cathy Sandeman, Jack Sandeman, Keith Shaw, Shirley Shaw, Mary Thompson, Linnea Walker, Frank Walker, Willie Wiebe, Jessica Wilkinson, Paul Wilkinson, Joyce Wilkinson, T. Vander Gaast, Jas. Wolstencroft. Compiler: Michael D. O'Shea.

Mammals reported: Mule Deer 4, White-tailed Deer 6, Jack Rabbit 3.

PORCUPINE HILLS

19 December to 1 January. Observers: Hazel Hudson, Cara Moser, Grace Norgard.

RED DEER

Counts were done at five feeders, city residential areas, ravines and river and creek areas; also two areas on the Red Deer River and Blindman River approx. 10 km from Red Deer.

26 December. Temperature -6° to -3°C, light SSE to S wind, cloud cover 1/10 to 3/10. 16 observers, 41.5 party-hours, 21.6 party-kilometers on foot, 35.2 by car.

Observers: Dorothy Broadbent, Geof Broadbent, Erling Glabais, Margaret Glabais, Doreen MacDonald, John McLuhan, Bruce McLuhan, Mike O'Brien, Maxine O'Riordan (compiler, 41 Springfield Ave., Red Deer, Alta. T4N 0C8), Beth Peck, Nellie Savage, Walter Savage, Kerry Wood, Marjorie Wood, Rhondo Wood.

STETTLER

Center, 1½ miles east of Stettler, NE3-39-19-W4. 16 December. Temperature -21° to -11°C, clear to cloudy to heavy overcast, mostly calm. 24 party hours, 208 party miles by car, 3½ party miles on foot.

Observers: Jim Burrell, Dorothy Brownlea, Earl and Elsie Cruikshank, Bernice and Lloyd Greenlee, Herb Hayes, Art Haywood, Gladys and Wilf Hewlett, Art Johnson, Martha and Ron Kruger, Rolf, Agnes and Simoan Lehman, Lloyd Lohr (compiler), Elmer McCall, Bruce Marshall, George and Grace Neill, Eric Smith, Kent Strandquist.

WABAMUN LAKE

23 December.

Unfortunately, Rainer Ebel, the compiler (8016 - 180 St., Edmonton, Alta.) felt that to provide any data from this count for the AN compilation, beyond a simple list of species, would not only be a duplication of effort but would be unethical, since the count data are to be published in American Birds. I was advised to "simply state Lake Wabamun. 1979. American Birds, in press."

(Editor's note: The publication of one paper or note in two scientific journals is considered unethical except where one is stated as reprinted from the other. However, each count in American Birds is published as a publication itself, whereas only one publication (by Virginia Lang Young), tabulating species of all Alberta counts, appears in the Alberta Naturalist. Publication of data in a different form is neither unethical, nor a duplication of effort. See also Editor's Page. - M.K.M.)

WATERTON LAKES NATIONAL PARK

30 December, 9:30 am to 3:30 pm. Temperature 5°C, wind 0-10 kph. Sunny, snow absent on grasslands and only a few centimeters in town, up to 25 cm. up Cameron Lake way.

Observers: Tony, Ann, Jessica and Roger Bull, Ken Goble, Margaret and Norman Cristall, Simon Lunn (compiler), and Carolyn Lunn.

Seen during count period but not on count day: Belted Kingfisher, Goshawk, Cooper's Hawk, Bald Eagle, Common Merganser, Mallard, American Coot, Spruce Grouse.

Mammals (and their tracks): Red Squirrel 8, Coyote 4, White-tailed Deer 14, Weasel (tracks), Beaver 1, Elk 374, Bighorn Sheep 20, Lynx (tracks), Cougar (track), Showshoe Hare (tracks), Mule Deer 15.

The compiler comments: Good weather; roads to Belly River Campground, Red Rock Canyon and Little Prairie Picnic Area (Akamina Highway) were open this year; main lakes and part of Waterton River were largely open. Bird feeders were rewarding observation points.

WILDLIFE RESERVE OF WESTERN CANADA

51°26'N 114°35'W, center SW corner 26-28-5-W5; elevation 3725 to 5000'; habitat coverage: wooded upland and edge 50%, wooded creek and riverbottom 30%, open farmland 10%, brushy range 9%, farmyard 1%.

29 December. 8;00 am to 5:30 pm. Mostly cloudy. Temperature 13° to 47°F. Wind NW, 0-5 mph. Snow cover 0 to 13". Fresh water partly open. Wild food crop fair. 38 observers, 33-37 in 14 parties, 1-5 at feeders. Total party-hours, 99.25 (53.25 on foot, 38.25 by car, 7.75 by ski) plus 2 hours at feeders; total party-miles 615 (59.5 on foot, 544.5 by car, 11 by ski).

Observers: Des Allen, Stuart Alexander, Vivianne Alexander, Donna and Paul Anderson, Hattie Boothman, Barry Burrows, Richard Clarke, Olga Droppo, Eleanor Hebron, Stewart Holohan, Stuart Johnston (co-compiler, Wildlife Reserve of Western Canada, Cochrane, Alta. TOL OWO), Alex, Catriona and Clio Metheson, Kay Morck, Daphne Murray, Craig Neal, Jamey Podlubny (co-compiler, 4520 Bulyea Rd., Calgary, Alta. T2L 2H3), Ed Quist, Bill Rackstraw, John Riddell, Mike Rogers, Barbara, Ian, Mark and Peter Sherrington, Andrew, Cyril and Paul Slater, Jack Steeves, Andrew, Don and Philip Stiles, John Thompson, Terry Thormin, Diana Valentine, Greg Wagner.

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THE 1979 MAY SPECIES COUNT - BIRDS AND MAMMALS

by Allen N. Wiseley
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Birds[1]

The 26th and 27th of May 1979 continued the trend of growth in participation in the Alberta May Species Count. Observers in the main count areas numbered 188 in 1979, up 46 (32%) from 1978. A Calgary contingent was included this year. Lethbridge had the largest number of observers with 69. Additional small scale counts were held in Bow Island, One-Four, Winfield, and Waterton Park/Cardston. The number of observers from these counts boost the provincial total to 206.

Conditions for the count weekend were generally great for an outing. Saturday the 26th was a scorcher over most of Alberta, with temperatures in the high 20's C (30°C in Lethbridge) in most locations, while on the 27th the weather moderated to a comfortable 20°C range for highs. An exception was Grande Prairie which was very windy and cool on Sunday. Wind may have also been a negative factor in other areas, especially in afternoons, but the productive morning hours generally were relatively calmer.

The preceding weather for the year included a relatively cold winter and spring. Water was abundant in ponds in southern Alberta, at least in the Calgary area, thanks to abundant fall precipitation in 1978. Temperature and precipitation data for May from four weather stations are listed on Table 1. Note that mean temperatures for May 1979 were consistantly lower than normal and that precipitation was slightly lower than normal at three of the four locations.

TABLE 1. Weather data, May 1979 at four Alberta weather stations*

	Temperature (°C)			Precipitation (mm)		
	May normal mean	May 1979 mean	difference	May normal total	May 1979 total	difference
Lethbridge	10.9	9.7	-1.2	51.1	46.9	-4.2
Calgary	9.3	7.5	-1.8	49.8	41.4	-8.4
Edmonton	10.9	9.6	-1.3	37.3	36.6	-0.7
Grande Prairie	10.0	7.9	-2.1	37.6	43.0	+5.4

*Fisheries and Environment Canada figures

[1] Bird names based on sources given in footnote to Christmas bird counts.

The following section summarizes the basic data from each main count area.

LETHBRIDGE

26, 27 May. 0315 to 2015; 0400 to 2100. Observers: 69; 18=69 observer hours: 396; 148. Team hours - 134;66. Weather: precip. nil.; cloud 0 to 0.1; wind calm to SW48 km/h; W19 to 69 km/h; temp. 10° to 39°; 9° to 19°. Areas: river valley, coulees, dryland, irrigated land, rangeland, prairie lakes and sloughs, city and rural parks. Team mileage: 391 (624 km) driven, 54 (87 km) walked, 5 (8 km) by team and wagon. Observer names: O. & M. Axtell, P. Bailey, K. Besty, O. & B. Blair, F. Brown, D. Clark, F. & L. Dekker, P. & N. & J. Dodd, W. Franz, M. Goodfellow, D. & J. Groft, C. Hastings, B. Haig (compiler), W. Haig, A. & F. Harper, O. Hedenstrom. J. Higgens, H. Hudson, H. Johnson, C. Lilly, B. & G. Luco; H. McKenzie; D. Mackintosh, L. & C. McKillop, D. Manz, B. & G. Merrick, G. Nelson, G. Norgard, D. Orr, M. O'Shea, S. Petherbridge, P. Priestly, G. & M. Polny, A. Roberts, D. Rhodes, H.& G. Ross, K. & F. Russell, S. & E. Salter, S. Shigimatsu, H. Sivyer, L. Slingsby, E. & F. Slaboda, B. Sommerfeldt, B. & D. Skeith, T. & C. VanderGaast, L. Walker, F. Watkins, B. & H. P. Wiebe, J.& J. & P. Wilkinson. Comment: attempted coverage pattern was to concentrate on day 1 on 25 m radius of Lethbridge and on day 2 to extend coverage to remaining 50 m radius.

CALGARY

26, 27 May. 0700 to 2045; 0630 to 2230. Observers 10; 13=21. Teams 5; 7. Observer hours 108; 126. Team hours 49; 45. Weather: precip. nil; cloud 0.0 to 0.3; 0.2 to 1.0; wind S 0 to 37 km/h, W 15-37 km/h; temp. 9°-26°; 6°-19°. Areas: Calgary: Nose Hill, Douglas Fir Trail, Glenmore Reservoir; Elbow River, Bragg Creek, Water Valley, Bottrel, Shepard, Langdon, Cremona, Didsbury; Frank, Eagle, Namaka, Stobart, Burn's and Kievere lakes; Calgary to Barrier Lake. Team mileage: car - 278; 299 (447, 481 km); walking 13½; 21¼ (21.7, 34.2 km). Observer names: J. Byatt, D. Dickson, A. & M. Fisher, E. Hebron, M. Lore, C. Osborne, S. Johnston, J. Podlubny, R. Purvis, M. Rodgers, P. Sherrington, A. Slater, J. & M. Steeves, A. & D. & P. Stiles, L. Unruh, G. Wagner and A. Wiseley (compiler). Comments: Birds seen from week before to week after include Goshawk, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Spruce Grouse, Hudsonian Godwit, Whimbrel, Solitary Sandpiper, Long-billed Dowitcher, Short-billed Dowitcher, Western Sandpiper, Bonaparte's Gull, Great Gray Owl, Long-eared Owl, Say's Phoebe, Great Crested Flycatcher, Alder Flycatcher, Sprague's Pipit, Loggerhead Shrike, (Black-throated Blue Warbler (Male - good view, but no field notes recorded)[2], Connecticut Warbler, Brewer's Sparrow.

BANFF

27 May. 0800 to 1700 hrs. Observers: 8. Team hours: 27. Weather: precip. nil, cloud 0.7 to 0.9, wind W to E 10 to 30 km/h, temp. 6° to 14°. Areas: Lower Bow Valley, Banff National Park including Banff townsite. Mileage: 100 mi (161 km) (7 hr) driven, 20 m (32 km) (20 hr) walked. Observer names: G. Burls, B. & R. Gordon, E. & G. Holroyd (compiler), M. McDougall, D. & M. McIvor. Comments: Migration seemed late especially for flycatchers and warblers.

[2]Editor's note: Without details or even the name of the observer(s), this record cannot be considered valid. - M.K.M.

YAMNUSKA

26 May. 0700 to 1000 hrs. Observers: 10. Observer hours: 52. Team hours: 21. Weather: precip. nil, wind W to E 5 to 25 kph. Mileage: 15 (24 km) driven, 16 (26 km) walked. Observer names: A. Brooks, J. & K. Cole, B. & R. Gordon, D. & M. McIvor (compiler), B. Nelson, B. & M. Smith.

STETTLER/BUFFALO LAKE

26, 27 May. Observers: 15. Teams 9. Team hours: 52. Weather: clear, light winds. Temp. to 20°. Mileage: car 287 mi (460 km); walking: 8¼ mi (13 km). Areas: Buffalo Lake, North Erskine, Rochon Sands Prov. Park, White Sands Resort, Ewing Lake, MacKenzie Crossing, Stettler, North Botha, 5 mi S Stettler, S.E. Stettler. Observer names: C. & A. Bird, M. Capen, E. Clark, B. Clark, M. Ganske, B. Greenlee, W. & G. Hewlett, L. Hrycyk, M. Kruger, L. Lohr, V. Maitland (compiler), G. Neill, G. O'Shea.

RED DEER

26, 27 May. 0700 - 2000 hrs; 0700-2030. Observers: 2; 8 = 10. Observer hours: 13; 55 = 68. Team hours: 6; 24.5 = 30.5. Weather: precip. nil.; cloud 0.2 to 0.4; 0.4 to 0.9; wind S to SE 5 to 10 km/h; W to NW 15 to 20 km/h; temp. 10° to 17°, 10° to 20°. Areas: Penhold Air base surroundings - Red Deer River, P. slough, slough SE Penhold, gravel pit W. Penhold; Sloughs Innisfail to Red Deer, Lewis' 5 mi E Innisfail; R. Deer R. 8 mi E.R.O., Gaetz Lake, Gravel pit E R. Deer, sloughs S. R. Deer. Team mileage: by car 60 mi (96 km); by foot 12 mi (19 km). Observer names: D. (compiler) and G. Broadbent, M. Glabais, H. Harris, B. Marston, N. & W. Savage, Dr. Thurston, M. & K. Wood. Comments: Also seen within week±: Golden Eagle, Bald Eagle, Ring-necked Pheasant, Rufous Hummingbird, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Red-eyed Vireo, Purple Finch, White-crowned Sparrow.

EDMONTON

26, 27 May. 0330 to 2300; 0625 to 1830. Observers: 13; 13 - 26. Observer hours: (117; 53) Team hours 57; 36. Weather: precip. nil., 0.6 mm; cloud 0 to 1.0; 0.2 to 1.0; wind W to SE 3 to 40 km/h; NW to SW 10 to 30 km/h; temp. 13° to 27°, 10° to 18°. Areas: Edmonton C B Count areas 2, 4, 7, 8, and 9, Wagner Bog, Whitemud Ravine, Clover Bar dump, Devon, U of A Botanical Gardens, Clifford E. Lee Nature Sanctuary, Halfmoon and Beaverhill lakes; Sherwood Park, Westlock, Edm. CBC areas 13 and 14, and Island Lake. Team mileage: by car 266.5 (429 km), walking 37.6 (61 m), other 3.6 mi (5.8 km). Observer names: I. Barrington-Leigh, B. & G. Bembridge, R. Cromie, A. Delnevo, J. Faragher, R. Heath, A. & L. & W. Hochachka, J. Lange, J. Park, E. & L. Pilarski, J. & S. Retallack, B. & D. Robinson, P. Thompson, E. Tull and E. Wallace. (Compiler was C. Harper.). Comments: ± One party (Tull-Delnevo) tallied 110 species. Additional birds seen 1 week - the count were Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Hermit Thrush, and Common Yellowthroat.

FORT MCMURRAY

26, 27 May. 0400 to 2030; 0330 to 1330. Observers: 9; 6 = 12. Observer hours: 37, 21. Team hours 21.5, 10.5. Weather: precip. 0, trace; cloud 0.7 to 1.0, 0.5 to 1.0; wind SE3 to 50 km/h (gusty); SW to W 5 to 54 km/h; temp. 7° to 28°; 8° to 20°. Areas: Ft. McMurray, town to Gregoire and to Mildred Lake, C.G.O.S. lease area; town dump, airport, Athabasca River near town; south of town. Team mileage: by car: 262 mi (421 km), by walking 12.4 mi (20 km), other 15.5 25 km). Observer names: H. Alexander, C. & B. Burgen, S. & J. Gulley (compiler),

Mr. & Mrs. G. Garrette, R. Foreman, J. Moroz, D. & P. Spencer, and B. Wylie. Comments: Other bird species seen one week ± count include Great Blue Heron, Canada Goose, Rough-legged Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Peregrine Falcon, Black-bellied Plover, Ruddy Turnstone, American Golden Plover, Long-billed Dowitcher, Least Sandpiper, Baird's Sandpiper, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Sanderling, Bonaparte's Gull, Glaucous Gull, Mourning Dove, Alder Flycatcher, Mourning Warbler, Canada Warbler, White-crowned Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, and Lapland Longspur. Also found was a Hawk Owl nesting pair with five young.

WEMBLEY - GRANDE PRAIRIE

26, 27 May, 1000 to 1700; 0600 to 2300. Observers: 15; 15 = 22. Team hours: 24. Weather: precip. 1.5 mm, trace; cloud 0 to 0.5, 1.0 to 1.0; wind WNW 10 to 56 km/h, W to NW 15 to 83 km/h; temp. 8° to 26°, 2° to 12°. Team mileage: by car 237 mi (381 km), by walking 7 mi (11 km). Areas: LaGlace and surrounding areas, Bearhill Park, Wembley, Grande Prairie, NE20-70-7, NW5-72-7; NW10-71-8, NW12 & SW25-71-9, SE29-71-8, NE20-70-7 & 8 mi E, SE31-71-7, between Buffalo and Sexsmith, S of Wapiti & W of Smokey Rivers, between NW5 and river lease, Bear, Hermit, Cutbank, Saskatoon & Uswells lakes. Observers: G. & E. Craig, H. & I. Cutler, L. Dahl, J. LaValley, Y. (compiler), O. & W. (+ 2 sons) MacAlister, E. & A. Moreside, B. Pierrard, F. & E. Roessler, O., L., & B. Watson, L. Wunsch, J. & G. Yates. Comments: Cold temperature has seen late leafing of trees. Water levels high. Other birds seen within one week ± count include Western Grebe, Red-necked Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, White Pelican, Killdeer, Hudsonian Godwit, Spotted Sandpiper, Swainson's Hawk, Least Flycatcher, "Traill's" Flycatcher (probably Alder), Least Flycatcher, Gray Jay, Clarke's Nutcracker and Red-breasted Nuthatch.

RESULTS

Table 2 lists the species totals for each of the main count areas. The 1979 bird count recorded 214 species in the nine major count areas, down 18 (8%) from the 1978 total. The 159 species found at Calgary constituted the high among all count areas. Edmonton was second, with 149, followed by Lethbridge with 130, Fort McMurray 118, Stettler 104, Grande Prairie 84, Banff 78, Red Deer 77, and Yamnuska 46. Increases over 1978 were led by Stettler with 21% (18 birds), Red Deer 18% (12 birds), Ft. McMurray 12% (13 birds), and Lethbridge 9% (11 birds), while decreases were most severe at Banff (42 birds - 35%) followed by Edmonton (28 birds - 16%), Grande Prairie (13 birds - 13%), and Yamnuska (6 birds - 12%).

The provincial data summary is as follows:

Number of areas: 9
Observers: 188
Observer hours: 1328
Team hours: 573.5
Kilometerage by car: 3529
Kilometerage by foot: 325
Total birds: 50,298
Total bird species: 216

Several interesting findings are included among the sightings in Table 2. New bird species in 1979 to the May Count lists totalled nine, with five at Fort McMurray (Goshawk; Snowy, Hawk and Barred owls, Northern Three-toed Woodpecker), and two each at Lethbridge (Upland Sandpiper, McCown's Longspur), Calgary (Upland Sandpiper; White-winged Crossbill), Stettler/Buffalo Lake (Whistling Swan,

Upland Sandpiper) and Banff (White-winged Crossbill, Hawk Owl). Note that three of these species were seen in two areas and another was shared by three counts.

Among the regularly occurring species, loons were up in numbers as were Horned, Eared and Western grebes. Sharp rises over 1978 in many ducks, such as Gadwall, Pintail, Blue- and Green-winged teal, Northern Shoveler, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, Canvasback and Lesser Scaup were almost entirely due to the new Calgary contributions. Several-fold increases in some hawks, notably Red-tailed, Swainson's, Marsh hawks, Prairie Falcon and Merlin are perhaps due to over all better and wider coverage as well as the 'Calgary effect'. The same tendency was seen with American Coot, Common Snipe, Willet, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, Marbled Godwit, American Avocet, Wilson's Phalarope, Ring-billed Gull, Franklin's Gull, Rock Dove, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Western Wood Pewee, Olive -sided Flycatcher, Black-billed Magpie, Common Crow, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Common Starling, Western Meadowlark, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Red-winged Blackbird, Brewers Blackbird, Brown-headed Cowbird, Western Tanager, Savannah Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow and Clay-colored Sparrow.

Other notable increases were seen among Great Blue Heron, Mourning Dove, Great Horned Owl, Burrowing Owl, Short-eared Owl, Rufous Hummingbird, Eastern and Western kingbirds, Say's Phoebe, Least Flycatcher, Horned Lark, Rough-winged, Barn and Cliff swallows, Blue Jay, Common Raven, Black-capped Chickadee, House Wren, Brown Thrasher, American Robin, Hermit Thrush, Tennessee and Yellow-rumped warblers, Ovenbird, House Sparrow, Northern Oriole, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Purple Finch, American Goldfinch, Lark and White-throated sparrow and Chestnut-collared Longspur.

Declines were noted among Ruffed and Sharp-tailed grouse, Sandhill Crane, Golden and Black-billed plover, Long-billed Curlew, Ruddy Turnstone, Red Knot, Sanderling, White-rumped Sandpiper, Baird's Sandpiper, Long-billed Dowitcher, Buff -breasted Sandpiper, Northern Phalarope, Herring, California, and Bonaparte's gulls, Forster's and Black terns, Belted Kingfisher, Violet-green Swallow, Long-billed Marsh Wren, Gray Catbird, Veery, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Water and Sprague's pipits, Cedar Waxwing, Red-eyed and Philadelphia vireos, Yellow, Magnolia, and Canada warblers, American Redstart, Pine Siskin, and Chipping Sparrow. Among the migrant shorebirds declines were due to lower counts at Edmonton. If one deducts the 1979 contribution of Calgary, then marked decline were also present among Tree and Bank swallows and Mountain Bluebirds.

The late spring weather in 1979 was perhaps responsible for records of a few northern species lingering longer than usual. These include the Red-breasted Merganser, Snowy Owl, and Tree Sparrow. Declines in several shorebirds are not readily explained due to variation in peak migration dates, but may have been partly influenced by spring weather.

Birds seen on all count areas this year were Mallard, Ring-necked Duck, American Kestrel, Common Snipe, Common Flicker, Eastern Kingbird, Tree Swallow, American Robin, Yellow Warbler, Red-winged Blackbird, Brown-headed Cowbird, and Savannah, Chipping and Song sparrows. Of these, Mallard, Red-winged Blackbird and Chipping Sparrow have been seen on each count since the count began. Ring-necked Duck and Savannah Sparrow are new to the list of species recorded in all areas in a single year.

Thirty-four of the 214 species in 1979 were found in only one count area. This was down 31 species from 1978, indicating that fewer unusual birds were found. Distribution of these among count areas shows that Lethbridge and Fort McMurray

each had 9, Edmonton 8, Banff 3, Calgary 1, Yamnuska 1, Red Deer 1, Grande Prairie 1, while Stettler had none.

Besides the main count areas, counts were conducted which were new, had small numbers of observers and/or were outside the 50 mi radius of main counts. Summaries of those results follow.

ONE-FOUR

26-27 May. M. & M. Meyer in vicinity of their property: Canada Goose 6 pr (nesting), Mallard 6 pr (with young), (Black Duck with young), Pintail 6 (with young, Northern Shoveler 4 (nesting), Bald Eagle 1, American Kestrel (1 pr nesting), Sharp-tailed Grouse 1, Sage Grouse (nesting 1 pr), Great Horned Owl (1 pr + 2 young), (Kingbirds 3) - species? - M.K.M., Barn Swallow 2, Cliff Swallow 4, Loggerhead Shrike 2, House Sparrow 4 (nesting), Western Meadowlark 1 (nesting), American Goldfinch 12 = 16 species.

CARDSTON

27 May, 0700-2200 hrs, B., J., and K. McKay, S., G. & K. Shaw. 283 mi by car, 6 by foot. Obs. hrs. 69, Team hrs 27, species: Common Loon 1, Red-necked Grebe 6, Horned Grebe 1, Great Blue Heron 2, Trumpeter Swan 2, Canada Goose 47, Mallard 49, Gadwall 9, Pintail 16, Green-winged Teal 2, Blue-winged Teal 44, Cinnamon Teal 1, American Wigeon 14, Northern Shoveler 4, Ring-necked Duck 6, Canvasback 44, Greater Scaup 5, Lesser Scaup 37, Barrow's Goldeneye 3, Bufflehead 3, Harlequin Duck 2, Ruddy Duck 2, Common Merganser 7, Red-tailed Hawk 5, Swainson's Hawk 9, (Ferruginous Hawk 5), Marsh Hawk 4, Osprey 2, Ruffed Grouse 2, Sharp-tailed Grouse 2, Ring-necked Pheasant 6, Gray Partridge 1, Sora 2, American Coot 19, Killdeer 19, Common Snipe 7, Long-billed Curlew 8, Spotted Sandpiper 7, Greater Yellowlegs 1, Willet 1, Marbled Godwit 1, Wilson's Phalarope 7, California Gull 5, Common Tern 5, Ring-billed Gull 3, Black Tern 11, Rock Dove 5, Mourning Dove 6, Great Horned Owl 8, Short-eared Owl 4, Common Flicker 8, Downy Woodpecker 1, Eastern Kingbird 1, Western Wood Pewee 2, Horned Lark 2, Violet-green Swallow 18, Tree Swallow 86, Bank Swallow 2, Barn Swallow 42, Cliff Swallow 294, Steller's Jay 1, Black-billed Magpie 61, Common Raven 11, Common Crow 33, Clarke's Nutcracker 1, Red-breasted Nuthatch 2, Dipper 1, House Wren 14, Gray Catbird 1, American Robin 77, Varied Thrush 5, Swainson's Thrush 5, Mountain Bluebird 19, Ruby-crowned Kinglet 2, Common Starling 79, Yellow Warbler 10, Yellow-rumped Warbler 1, House Sparrow 88, Bobolink 2, Western Meadowlark 27, Yellow-headed Blackbird 33, Red-winged Blackbird 84, Northern Oriole 7, Brewer's Blackbird 93, Common Grackle 6, Brown-headed Cowbird 26, Pine Siskin 2, American Goldfinch 6, Savannah Sparrow 14, Vesper Sparrow 5, Dark-eyed Junco 3, Clay-colored Sparrow 4, White-crowned Sparrow 7, Song Sparrow 8 = 92 species. (Well done!)

BOW ISLAND

27 May. 1300-2000 hrs. Obs. hrs. 7. Team hrs. 14. C. & D. Banasch. By car 30 mi; on foot 2 mi. Species - Common Loon 2, Horned Grebe 18, Eared Grebe 8, Black-crowned Night Heron 3, Canada Goose 13, Mallard 50, Pintail 60, Green-winged Teal 20, Blue-winged Teal 18, American Wigeon 25, Northern Shoveler 18, Lesser Scaup 20, Ruddy Duck 3, Swainson's Hawk 4, Ferruginous Hawk 2, Marsh Hawk 4, American Kestrel 3, Ring-necked Pheasant 12, Gray Partridge 6, American Coot 32, Killdeer 16, American Golden Plover 2, Common Snipe 5, Long-billed Curlew 6, Willet 22, Marbled Godwit 6, American Avocet 10, Wilson's Phalarope 9, California Gull 20, Ring-billed Gull 70, Franklin's Gull 23, Common Tern 25, Black Tern 7, Rock Dove 60, Mourning Dove 6, Eastern Kingbird 5, Western Kingbird 16, Eastern

Phoebe 6, unid. Traill's Flycatcher 10, Horned Lark 40, Barn Swallow 30, Cliff Swallow 20, Black-billed Magpie, Common Crow 9, House Wren 6, Long-billed Marsh Wren 20, Gray Catbird 1, American Robin 45, Hermit Thrush 2, Veery 15, Mountain Bluebird 3, Yellow Warbler 3, Yellowthroat 7, House Sparrow 250, Western Meadowlark 30, Yellow-headed Blackbird 120, Red-winged Blackbird 150, Northern Oriole 5, Brewer's Blackbird 15, Common Grackle 35, Brown-headed Cowbird 12, American Goldfinch 10, Chipping Sparrow 11, Chestnut-collared Longspur 20 = 64 species.

WINFIELD

27 May. 0900-1300 hrs. Observers 4, obs. hrs. 16, Team hrs. 4. C., D., & R. Harrowing, L. Muldener. Miles walked 5. Bird species: Mallard 3, Green-winged Teal 1, Blue-winged Teal 2, American Wigeon 2, Common Goldeneye 3, Bufflehead 2, Red-tailed Hawk 1, Bald Eagle 1, Marsh Hawk 1, American Kestrel 2, Spruce Grouse 1, Ruffed Grouse 1, Killdeer 1, Common Snipe 3, Solitary Sandpiper 1, Spotted Sandpiper 2, Lesser Yellowlegs , Saw-whet Owl 1, Common Flicker 1, Pileated Woodpecker 2, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 2, Eastern Kingbird 3, Eastern Phoebe 2, Least Flycatcher 3, Tree Swallow 4, Barn Swallow 3, Blue Jay 2, Black-billed Magpie 2, Common Raven 2, Common Crow 1, Black-capped Chickadee 1, White-breasted Nuthatch 1, American Robin 5, Hermit Thrush 2, Mountain Blackbird 1, Ruby-crowned Kinglet 1, Common Starling 3, Red-eyed Vireo 1, Warbling Vireo 1, Yellow-rumped Warbler 3, (Connecticut Warbler 1), Red-winged Blackbird 6, Northern Oriole 2, Brown-headed Cowbird , Purple Finch 5, Dark-eyed Junco 3, Clay-colored Sparrow 2, White-crowned Sparrow 1, White-throated Sparrow 5, Song Sparrow 1 = 49 species. Mammals: unid. Rabbit 1, Red Squirrel 2, Flying Squirrel 2, Least Chipmunk 7, Woodchuck1, Porcupine 1, Short-tailed Weasel 1, White-tailed Deer 1, Moose 1 = 9 species.

GENERAL COMMENTS:

In spite of the fact that fewer species were found during the 1979 count, several high spots are visible among the results. A surprising variety of owls were found in the province, perhaps reflecting a flush in population (and/or prey population) levels. These were highlighted by three (Snowy, Hawk, and Barred owls) that were new to the count. Excellent count totals were also reported of most waterfowl, hawks, swallows, corvids, blackbirds, and several sparrows. We can be particularly proud of these results.

Toward improvements in the May Species Count records, some species or groups deserve added attention. These include localized populations, such as the colonial birds including grebes, herons, gulls, and terns or those restricted by habitat quality such as grassland specialties: McCown's Longspur; Lark, Baird's Brewer's and Grasshopper sparrows; Loggerhead Shrike; most native grouse species; montane specialties: Clark's Nutcracker, Black Swifts, hummingbirds, Lazuli Bunting and grosbeaks, Dipper; some general forest birds: finches, sparrows, flycatchers and vireos and the tougher identification problems such as flycatchers, sparrows, and shorebirds. Warbler totals in 1979 were good in this aspect, but some local work on *Empidonax* flycatchers, and sparrows could benefit our future record keeping. Many of these species should be documented better if increased land and habitat conversion occurs within Alberta, as little basic information now exists on several of them. Some mammals deserve our attention as well.

I was pleased this year with results of the smaller counts. Interest is high in the Waterton-Cardston area and promotion to a regularly listed area is potential if a coordinator is available. More participation is perhaps needed in the One

-four (Milk River) area, where several interesting birds are found. Other small count areas have potential for May Counts and could be added to the program. Keep the mammal records coming! A special thanks to coordinators (and/or secretaries) from Fort McMurray (John Gulley), Grande Prairie (Ellen Craig), Lethbridge (Betty Haig), and Edmonton (Charles Harper) for excellent data presentations. Thanks to all compilers for their time and effort and to the many participants. Good luck in 1980 (May 24, 25).

Mammals

As shown in Table 3, mammal sightings for the province on the 1979 May Count included 25 species, up 108% (13 species) from 1978. Count areas were led by Calgary with 12 species, Banff 10, and Lethbridge and Stettler with 9 each, followed by the other areas. Edmonton failed to submit any mammal sightings.

Unusual among the sightings this year was the Yellow-bellied Marmot and Red Fox from Lethbridge, and the Lynx and Marten from Fort McMurray. The skunks from Calgary and Stettler were the first reported on the counts.

TABLE 2. Bird Sightings - May Species Count 1979

	Leth	Calg	Banff	Yamn	Stett /B.L.	Red Deer	Edm	Ft Mc	Gr Prair	Total
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Common Loon	5	1	4	3	2		6	9		30
Red-necked Grebe		10	4		3	2	28	4		51
Horned Grebe	40	79	1		27	23	15	3	6	194
Eared Grebe	131	1590			10	6	35	2	84	1858
Western Grebe	19	25			6	1	12	1		64
Pied-billed Grebe		2			1		1	1		5
Double-crested Cormorant	8	1								9
Great Blue Heron	32	7			1		3			43
Blk.-crowned Night Heron	9	3								12
American Bittern	7	*1	3		1		1			13
Whistling Swan		(1*)			1					2
Trumpeter Swan									8	8
Canada Goose	464	256	9		22	12	95		13	871
Mallard	514	265	62	8	121	48	108	65	124	1322
Black Duck					(1)					(1)
Gadwall	29	422			31		18	2	20	522
Pintail	688	1318	4		70	18	36	27	45	2206
Green-winged Teal	17	50	8		22		15	14	8	134
Blue-winged Teal	265	369	12		132	11	49	23	10	871
Cinnamon Teal	46	12	3		1	8	2			72
American Wigeon	54	48	4		50	8	34	30	41	269
Northern Shoveler	407	896	6		58	8	36	15	7	1433
Redhead	79	180			43	14	21	2		339
Ring-necked Duck	1	35	26	9	1	2	12	54	2	142
Canvasback	51	192			18	10	18		18	307
Lesser Scaup	122	900			204	74	131	47	261	1739
Common Goldeneye	9	9			15	24	45	49	3	154
Barrow's Goldeneye			9	2					2	13
Bufflehead	6	42		7	41	44	32	40	13	225
Harlequin Duck		2	7							9
White-winged Scoter	1	42					6	1	439	489
Ruddy Duck	52	47				13	32	8	7	159
Hooded Merganser							1			1
Common Merganser	5	4	4					4	2	19
Red-breasted Merganser			2				2	12		16
Goshawk - new								1		1
Sharp-shinned Hawk							1			1
Cooper's Hawk		2			1		1			4
Red-tailed Hawk	18	75		2	43	22	19		3	182
Broad-winged Hawk							1			1
Swainson's Hawk	58	132			15	3	5			212
Rough-legged Hawk	(1)									(1)
Ferruginous Hawk	3	1			1					5
Golden Eagle	3	1						1		5
Bald Eagle			2							2
Marsh Hawk	55	40			11	1	8	5	6	126
Osprey		1	2				1	1		5
Prairie Falcon	5	1								6
Merlin	2	1			1		7			11
American Kestrel	39	15	1	1	2	9	5	17	7	96
Ruffed Grouse		13	1	3	5	6	7		3	38
Sharp-tailed Grouse	1	1					3	1		6

TABLE 2 continued	Leth	Calg	Banff	Yamn	Stett /B.L.	Red Deer	Edm	Ft Mc	Gr Prair	Total
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Ring-necked Pheasant	26	2			1		9		1	39
Gray Partridge	55	51			5		2		4	117
Sandhill Crane	1						2	2	1	5
Virginia Rail							(1)			(1)
Sora		28	4	1	1		12	13		59
American Coot	342	432			53	51	95	33	8	1014
Semipalmated Plover		2					1	1		4
Killdeer	187	195	6		32	8	22	40		490
American Golden Plover		15				1				16
Black-bellied Plover	264	87					16	1		368
Common Snipe	4	3	8	2	8	1	12	28	5	101
Long-billed Curlew	52	7								59
Whimbrel	(1)									(1)
Upland Sandpiper - new	6	1			1					9
Spotted Sandpiper	17	24	7	2	1	5	28	20		104
Solitary Sandpiper	5				2			4		11
Greater Yellowlegs		1	1	2				5		9
Lesser Yellowlegs	3	3					11	20	9	46
unidentified Yellowlegs		2								2
Willet	45	116			11		8			180
Ruddy Turnstone							6			6
Red Knot							8			8
Sanderling	26	5					15			46
Semipalmated Sandpiper		527			9		35	3		574
Least Sandpiper	2	11					2			15
White-rumped Sandpiper		38					1			39
Baird's Sandpiper		75			4		1			80
Pectoral Sandpiper		28					17	3		48
Dunlin		1					2			3
Long-billed Dowitcher	2						8			10
Stilt Sandpiper		13					4	1		18
Buff-breasted Sandpiper							20			20
Marbled Godwit	86	205			7		11			309
American Avocet	91	135			16		3			245
Wilson's Phalarope	164	183	1		18		52	34		452
unidentified phalarope		6								6
Northern Phalarope		31					20	10		61
Herring Gull		3			5		2	496	5	511
California Gull		26			2		105	311	4	448
unidentified White-headed gull - 1543										1543
Ring-billed Gull		196			158	11	45	34		444
Franklin's Gull	1443	2245				82	112	4	129	4015
Bonaparte's Gull	4						2		10	16
Forster's Tern							2			2
Common Tern	23	73			2		6			104
Black Tern	2	176			106	19	65	18	6	392
Rock Dove	162	118	3		38	10	34		3	368
Mourning Dove	181	10			6	6	3			206
Great Horned Owl	14				1		2	3	5	25
Snowy Owl - new								1		1
Hawk Owl			1					1		2
Burrowing Owl	15	2								17
Barred Owl - new								1		1
Short-eared Owl	19	7					1			27

TABLE 2 continued	Leth	Calg	Banff	Yamn	Stett /B.L.	Red Deer	Edm	Ft Mc	Gr Prair	Total
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Saw-whet Owl						1				1
unidentified owl							4			4
Common Nighthawk	2							5		7
Ruby-throated Hummingbird					3				1	4
Rufous Hummingbird		3	7		1				1	12
Calliope Hummingbird				3						3
Belted Kingfisher	14	4	2				2	1		23
Common Flicker	50	20	22	2	3	2	12	19	8	138
Pileated Woodpecker		2	1			3	2			8
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	2	16	3		2			2	4	29
Hairy Woodpecker		3		1	3		2	4	2	15
Downy Woodpecker	1	3			1	2	5	2	1	15
Northern Three-toed Woodpecker								1		1
Eastern Kingbird	113	38	2	1	28	4	5	2	10	203
Western Kingbird	99	17								116
unidentified flycatcher			1							1
Eastern Phoebe	2	4			5		4	1	1	17
Say's Phoebe	11									11
unidentified Traill's Flycatcher						11				11
Alder Flycatcher							1			1
Least Flycatcher	22	64		4	4	13	78	53		233
unid. Hammond or Dusky Flycatcher		6								6
Dusky Flycatcher		2		1						3
Western Wood Pewee	14	45			1	7	8	5	14	94
Olive-sided Flycatcher		5		1		1				7
Horned Lark	583	97			2		4			686
Violet-green Swallow			34	4						38
Tree Swallow	26	330	54	6	108	90	50	66	24	754
Bank Swallow	308	182	20			25	30	31	4	600
Rough-winged Swallow	178	28	36		4		2			248
Barn Swallow	176	179	15		85	11	19	21	10	586
Cliff Swallow	780	302	35		100	20	158	950	20	2365
Purple Martin		(1)			37	3	11			51
Gray Jay		5	6	2				8		21
Blue Jay	2	1			3	6	26	9	3	50
Black-billed Magpie	257	297	22	2	57	30	112		35	812
Common Raven		11	28	2				104	1	246
Common Crow	156	260	44	2	230	24	46	10	42	814
Clark's Nutcracker			1							1
Black-capped Chickadee	28	25	3		1	7	31	5	4	104
Mountain Chickadee			13	1						14
Boreal Chickadee		7		3		3	4			17
unidentified Nuthatch								1		1
Red-breasted Nuthatch		19	5	1		6	9			40
American Dipper		2								2
House Wren	98	45			23	7	25	1	3	202
Long-billed Marsh Wren		9			2		10			21
Rock Wren	2									2
Gray Catbird	7				3		2			12
Brown Thrasher	16	3					2			21
American Robin	319	122	17	5	67	30	90	48	30	728
Hermit Thrush	10	6		2				9	5	32
Swainson's Thrush	38	5					1	4		48

TABLE 2 continued	Leth	Calg	Banff	Yamn	Stett /B.L.	Red Deer	Edm	Ft Mc	Gr Prair	Total
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Gray-cheecked Thrush	3									3
Veery	6						5			11
Mountain Bluebird	9	59	2		28	3	22			113
Townsend's Solitaire	(1)	4								4
Golden-crowned Kinglet		1	3							4
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1	27	13	7			2	2	1	53
Water Pipit		3	2							5
Sprague's Pipit	30									30
Cedar Waxwing						1				1
Loggerhead Shrike	1									1
Common Starling	455	389	11		72	29	139	10	32	1137
Solitary Vireo		3					1	1		5
Red-eyed Vireo	9	3	1		1		6	4		24
Philadelphia Vireo								1		1
Warbling Vireo		27	14	3	4	3	2			53
Black + White Warbler		1				1		7	1	10
Tennessee Warbler	1	25					21	82		129
Orange-crowned Warbler	1	3	10		1			1	1	17
Yellow Warbler	46	43	9	1	16	5	51	63	10	244
Magnolia Warbler								4		4
Cape May Warbler								3		3
Yellow-rumped Warbler	4	20	96	6		5	6	35	1	173
Townsend's Warbler		1	7							8
Black-throated Green Warbler								6		6
Blackpoll Warbler	1	2		2			1	5		11
Palm Warbler								3		3
Ovenbird		4		3			1	19		27
Northern Waterthrush	2	8						19		29
McGillivray's Warbler			1							1
Common Yellowthroat	12	14	55	3	1			1		86
Wilson's Warbler	8	7	12	2			1	6	1	37
Canada Warbler							2			2
American Redstart	9	9					3	6		19
House Sparrow	621	213	1		165	6	59	13	32	1110
Bobolink	2	2			2					6
Western Meadowlark	251	415			17		4			687
Yellow-headed Blackbird	1671	841	4		122	113	49	13	6	2819
Red-winged Blackbird	904	800	252	12	263	110	214	148	141	2944
Northern Oriole	51	21			35		84		4	195
Rusty Blackbird	(67)					2	2	23	4	31
Brewer's Blackbird		450			68	14	45	96	10	683
Common Grackle	24				10		8	36	2	80
Brown-headed Cowbird	186	148	167	15	24	3	78	30	16	667
Western Tanager		6	1			1	3	8		19
Rose-breasted Grosbeak							17	4	5	26
Evening Grosbeak							1		17	18
Purple Finch		6					5	1	24	36
Pine Siskin		11	5				1			17
American Goldfinch	47	3			15	6	7			78
unidentified crossbill		1+								1+
White-winged Crossbill - new		1	3							4
Rufous-sided Towhee	7									7
Savannah Sparrow	107	279	11	3	4	2	39	7	66	518
LeConte's Sparrow		2					10	4		16
Vesper Sparrow	129	124	2	2	9	4	11		6	287

TABLE 2 continued	Leth	Calg	Banff	Yamn	Stett /B.L.	Red Deer	Edm	Ft Mc	Gr Prair	Total
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Lark Sparrow	20								(1)	20
Dark-eyed Junco		11	7	4	1	8	11	2	2	46
Tree Sparrow - new	3					2	5	1		11
Chipping Sparrow	19	75	60	10	8	18	75	61	2	328
Clay-colored Sparrow	73	108		1	27	27	78	31	2	347
Grasshopper Sparrow	(5)									
Brewer's Sparrow	2									2
White-crowned Sparrow	16	6	13						2	37
White-throated Sparrow	1	16			5	16	70	57	7	172
Lincoln's Sparrow		19	5				22	6		52
Swamp Sparrow					1		1	10		12
Song Sparrow	22	8	4	1	8	6	30	24	17	120
McCown's Sparrow - new	7						(1)			7
Lapland Longspur		(1)								(1)
Chestnut-collared Longspur		251	9							260
				TOTAL SPECIES	214					

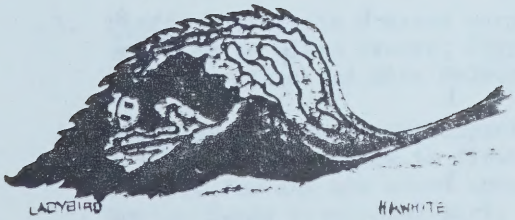

TABLE 3. Mammal Sightings - May Species Count 1979

Species	Lethbridge	Calgary	Banff	Yamnuska	Stettler/Buff L	Red Deer	Ft McMurray	Wembley/Gr Pr	Total
unidentified brown shrew		1							1
Whitetail Jackrabbit	(19)*				2				(21)
Snowshoe Hare	(1)	7			4		5	1	17
Least Chipmunk			2	1					3
unidentified chipmunk		1							1
Richardson's Ground Squirrel	153	41			121				315
Columbian Ground Squirrel			55						55
unidentified mouse					2				2
Golden-mantled Ground Squirrel		1	1						2
Franklin's Ground Squirrel					1				1
Red Squirrel		13	16	7		7	3	2	48
Woodchuck		2							2
Yellow-bellied Marmot	4								4
Beaver	1		1			2	2		6
Muskrat		1	15		4	1			21
Red Fox	2								2
Coyote	2	1	1			1			4
Lynx							1		1
Striped Skunk		1			1				2
Marten							1		1
Mule Deer	11	2	9		1				23
White-tailed Deer	1	11			3				15
Pronghorn	1								1
Elk			8					2	10
Bighorn Sheep			3	5					8
Total Species	9+	12	10	3	9	4	5	3	25

*improper name submitted

RESULTS OF THE 1979 MAY DAY COUNT (PLANTS)

by J. Derek Johnson
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The following is a tabulation of the results of the botanical portion of the 1979 May Day Count (26-27 May). The areas from which reports were received have been listed in approximate latitudinal order from south to north. Nine areas were covered during the 1979 count, with 51 people participating.

The method of reporting is the same as that used for the 1978 count (see Johnson 1979). A total of 164 species were recorded in flower during the 1979 count. This is considerably fewer than have been recorded in previous years: 266 in 1978, 289 in 1977, and 255 in 1976. This is in part due to the late spring in 1979. Also, fewer people participated, and fewer areas were covered. However, in spite of these deficiencies, a number of species were recorded in flower which have not appeared in previous counts.

Following is a list of observers, totals and other pertinent remarks for each area.

1. Calgary: Mike Battrum, Margaret Clarke, Mary Lore and Cathy Osborne recorded 36 species in flower throughout various natural areas within the city, the majority coming from Nose Hill.

2. Yamnuska: As usual, the Banff group put forth a spirited effort, resulting in the greatest number of species reported in flower (56), for any one count area. Twelve people participated in the count. The Yamnuska area appears to be a hot bed for early flowering plants with annually one of the highest, if not the highest, recorded totals of plant species in flower for the entire province. However, as with all areas reporting in 1979, the number of species in flower was down considerably from that reported in 1978--56 as compared to 84 in the previous year. The lateness of the 1979 spring was clearly evident in the retarded phenology of the flowering plants. Participants in the Yamnuska count included Allan Brooks, Joyce and Keith Cole, Bruce and Ruth Gordon, Diane and Mike McIvor, Bunty Nelson and Bob and Mary Smith.

3. Banff: Fifty-six species were reported in flower along the Banff-Canmore corridor by Allan Brooks, Joyce and Keith Cole, Geoffrey and Elizabeth Holroyd, Diane and Mike McIvor and Bob and Mary Smith.

4. Stettler: Sixteen participants from the Buffalo Lake Naturalists recorded a total of 54 species in flower. The number of participants was the largest for any one count area. The general area covered included Erskine, Rochon Sands Provincial Park, White Sands Resort, the Bird farm, Buffalo Lake, Ewing Lake, Mackenzie Crossing (Red Deer River area), Botha and Stettler. Participants were Edith Clark, Lloyd Lohr, Marje Ganske, Leta Hrycyk, Wilf and Gladys Hewlett, Grace O'Shea, Bertha Clark, Martha Kruger, Lloyd and Bernice Greenlee, Grace Neill, Virginia Maitland, Charles and Ann Bird and Max Capen.

5. Tofield: Twenty-seven species were observed in flower by Derek Johnson and Rick Hurdle at an acreage near Gambling Lake, 13 km WSW of Tofield.

6. Drayton Valley: Derek Johnson and Steve and Elizabeth Zoltai found 27 species in flower at Hoople Lake, 33 km N of Drayton Valley.

7. Jasper National Park: Peter Achuff, Ian Corns, Linda Cole, Jake Dyck, Janet Marsh and Sandy Scott recorded 35 species in flower in the Athabasca River valley.

8. Grande Prairie: Thirty-four species were observed in flower in the general Grande Prairie area by Gavin and Ellen Craig, Lorna Dahl, Joe LaValley, Yvonne and Walter MacAlister and Edna and Alvin Moreside.

9. Fort McMurray: Margaret Walker reported 52 species in flower from this northern Alberta area.

LITERATURE CITED

Johnson, J.D. 1979. Results of the 1978 May Species Count Day (plants). Alberta Nat. 9, suppl. no. 1: 50-62.

Moss, E.H. 1959. Flora of Alberta. Univ. of Toronto Press, Toronto.

1979 MAY DAY COUNT: PLANTS IN FLOWER

(Nomenclature as in FLORA OF ALBERTA (E.H. Moss, 1959))

FAMILY SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	Calgary	Yamnuska	Banff-Canmore	Stettler-Buffalo L.	Tofield	Drayton Valley	Jasper National Park	Grande Prairie	Fort McMurray
PINACEAE (Pine Family)										
Juniperus horizontalis	Creeping Juniper								+	
Larix laricina	Tamarack								+	
Picea glauca	White Spruce								+	
P. mariana	Black Spruce								+	+
Pinus contorta	Lodgepole Pine								+	
Pseudotsuga menziesii	Douglas Fir		+	+						
GRAMINEAE (Grass Family)										
Festuca scabrella	Rough Fescue	+								
Hierochloe odorata	Sweet Grass	+	+	+	+			+		
CYPERACEAE (Sedge Family)										
Carex sp.	Sedge	+	+	+		+				+
C. atherodes	Awned Sedge			+						
C. aurea	Golden Sedge	+	+							
C. concinna	Sedge						+	+		
C. eburnea	Sedge							+		
C. eleocharis	Sedge							+		
C. foenea	Dry-spike Sedge				+					
C. obtusata	Blunt Sedge				+					
C. richardsonii	Richardson's Sedge						+	+		
C. scirpoidea	Sedge							+		
C. vaginata	Sedge						+			
C. viridula	Green Sedge				+					
Eleocharis palustris	Creeping Spike Rush				+					
Eriophorum scheuchzeri	Cottongrass									+
E. vaginatum	Cottongrass						+			
Scirpus nevadensis	Bulrush				+					

FAMILY SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	Calgary	Yamnuska	Banff-Canmore	Stettler-Buffalo L.	Tofield	Drayton Valley	Jasper National Park	Grande Prairie	Fort McMurray
LILIACEAE (Lily Family)										
Disporum trachycarpum	Fairy-bells		+		+		+		+	+
Maianthemum canadense	Wild Lily-of-the-Valley				+					+
Smilacina stellata	Star-flowered Solomon's-seal	+		+				+		
IRIDACEAE (Iris Family)										
Sisyrinchium montanum	Blue-eyed Grass									+
ORCHIDACEAE (Orchid Family)										
Calypso bulbosa	Calypso Orchid		+	+				+	+	+
Corallorhiza trifida	Pale Coral-root Orchid			+						
SALICACEAE (Willow Family)										
Populus balsamifera	Balsam Poplar			+	+				+	
P. tremuloides	Aspen			+					+	+
Salix sp.	Willow	+	+	+				+	+	+
S. bebbiana	Beaked Willow				+					+
S. interior	Sandbar Willow	+								
S. lutea	Yellow Willow					+				
S. petiolaris	Meadow Willow				+	+	+			
S. planifolia	Willow					+	+			
S. pseudomonticola	Willow						+			
BETULACEAE (Birch Family)										
Alnus crispa	Green Alder		+	+						+
Betula glandulosa	Dwarf Birch		+	+						
B. occidentalis	Water Birch		+		+				+	
B. papyrifera	Paper Birch		+			+	+		+	+
B. pumila	Swamp Birch						+			

FAMILY SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	Calgary	Yamnuska	Banff-Canmore	Stettler-Buffalo L.	Tofield	Drayton Valley	Jasper National Park	Grande Prairie	Fort McMurray
Corylus cornuta	Beaked Hazelnut					+	+			+
SANTALACEAE (Sandalwood Family)										
Comandra pallida	Pale False Toadflax	+						+	+	+
Geocaulon lividum	Northern False Toadflax			+				+		+
CARYOPHYLLACEAE (Pink Family)										
Arenaria lateriflora	Broad-leaved Sandwort					+				
Cerastium arvense	Field Chickweed	+	+		+			+	+	
Stellaria longipes	Long-stalked Chickweed			+	+					
RANUNCULACEAE (Crowfoot Family)										
Actaea rubra	Baneberry				+					
Anemone canadensis	Canada Anemone	+			+					
A. multifida	Cut-leaved Anemone	+	+	+				+		
A. parviflora	Northern Anemone		+	+				+		
A. patens	Prairie Crocus	+	+	+	+			+	+	+
Caltha palustris	Marsh Marigold						+			+
Clematis verticellaris	Purple Clematis		+	+						
Ranunculus abortivus	Small-flowered Buttercup								+	
R. acris	Tall Buttercup	+	+							
R. cardiophyllus	Heart-leaved Buttercup	+								
R. gmelinii	Yellow Water Crowfoot									+
R. rhomboideus	Prairie Buttercup				+				+	
Thalictrum venulosum	Veiny Meadow Rue		+			+	+			
FUMARIACEAE (Fumitory Family)										
Corydalis aurea	Golden Corydalis		+	+	+	+		+	+	+
CRUCIFERAE (Mustard Family)										
Arabis sp.	Rock Cress			+						
A. divaricarpa	Purple Rock Cress		+	+						
A. hirsuta	Hairy Rock Cress			+						+

FAMILY SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	Calgary	Yamnuska	Banff-Canmore	Stettler-Buffalo L.	Torfield	Drayton Valley	Jasper National Park	Grande Prairie	Fort McMurray
Barbarea vulgaris	Yellow Rocket		+							
Capsella bursa-pastoris	Shepherd's-purse	+			+	+				+
Cardamine sp.	Bitter Cress									+
Draba sp.	Draba		+					+		
D. aurea	Golden Draba		+							
D. cana	White Draba		+							
D. nemorosa	Yellow Draba		+		+	+				
Erysimum cheiranthoides	Wormseed Mustard			+						
Lesquerella arenosa	Bladder-pod	+								
Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum	Water Cress			+						
Thlaspi arvense	Stinkweed			+	+	+			+	+
CRASSULACEAE (Orpine Family)										
Sedum rosea	Rose-root		+							
SAXIFRAGACEAE (Saxifrage Family)										
Chrysosplenium iowense	Golden Saxifrage						+			+
Heuchera richardsonii	Alum-root				+					
Ribes americanum	Wild Black Currant				+					
R. glandulosum	Skunk Currant						+			+
R. hirtellum	Wild Gooseberry									+
R. hudsonianum	Wild Black Currant		+	+						
R. oxyacanthoides	Wild Gooseberry	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	
R. triste	Wild Red Currant					+	+			+
Saxifraga bronchialis	Spotted Saxifrage								+	
S. oppositifolia	Purple Saxifrage		+					+		
S. tricuspidata	Three-toothed Saxifrage									
ROSACEAE (Rose Family)										
Amelanchier alnifolia	Saskatoon-berry	+	+	+	+	+			+	+

FAMILY SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	Calgary	Yamnuska	Banff-Canmore	Stettler-Buffalo L.	Tofield	Drayton Valley	Jasper National Park	Grande Prairie	Fort McMurray
Dryas drummondii	Yellow Dryad		+	+						
D. integrifolia	White Mountain Avens							+		
D. octopetala	White Mountain Avens		+							
Fragaria vesca	Woodland Strawberry		+	+						
F. virginiana	Wild Strawberry	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Geum triflorum	Three-flowered Avens	+	+	+	+			+	+	
Potentilla anserina	Silverweed				+					
P. concinna	Early Cinquefoil	+	+	+	+					
P. nivea	Alpine Cinquefoil		+							
Prunus pensylvanica	Pin Cherry		+			+			+	+
P. virginiana	Choke Cherry							+	+	
Rubus acaulis	Dwarf Raspberry									+
R. pubescens	Dewberry									+
R. strigosus	Wild Red Raspberry				+					
LEGUMINOSAE (Pea Family)										
Astragalus aboriginum	Indian Milk Vetch			+						
A. crassicarpus	Ground Plum	+								
Hedysarum mackenzii	Mackenzie's Hedysarum		+					+		
Lathyrus ochroleucus	Yellow Pea Vine					+		+	+	
Oxytropis sericea	Early Yellow Loco-weed		+					+		
O. viscida	Sticky Loco-weed			+						
Thermopsis rhombifolia	Golden Bean	+								
Trifolium pratense	Red Clover				+					
T. repens	White Clover			+						+
ACERACEAE (Maple Family)										
Acer glabrum	Mountain Maple		+							
A. negundo	Manitoba Maple				+					

FAMILY SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	Calgary	Yamnuska	Banff-Canmore	Stettler-Buffalo L.	Tofield	Drayton Valley	Jasper National Park	Grande Prairie	Fort McMurray
VIOLACEAE (Violet Family)										
Viola adunca	Early Blue Violet	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
V. nephrophylla	Bog Violet	+								
V. nuttallii	Yellow Prairie Violet	+			+					
V. pedatifida	Crowfoot Violet	+			+					
V. renifolia	Kidney-leaved Violet		+	+		+	+			+
V. rugulosa	Western Canada Violet	+	+		+	+			+	+
ELAEAGNACEAE (Oleaster Family)										
Shepherdia canadensis	Canadian Buffalo-berry		+	+	+	+	+	+		+
ARALIACEAE (Ginseng Family)										
Aralia nudicaulis	Wild Sarsaparilla									+
UMBELLIFERAE (Carrot Family)										
Lomatium macrocarpum	Long-fruited Prairie Parsley	+								
L. triternatum	Prairie Parsley			+						
Musineon divaricatum	Yellow Prairie Parsley			+						
Zizia aptera	Heart-leaved Alexanders	+	+	+						
CORNACEAE (Dogwood Family)										
Cornus stolonifera	Red Osier Dogwood				+					
PYROLACEAE (Wintergreen Family)										
Pyrola asarifolia	Common Pink Wintergreen								+	
ERICACEAE (Heath Family)										
Arctostaphylos rubra	Alpine Bearberry									+
A. uva-ursi	Kinnikinnick		+	+	+		+	+	+	+

FAMILY SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	Calgary	Yamnuska	Banff-Canmore	Stettler-Buffalo L.	Tofield	Drayton Valley	Jasper National Park	Grande Prairie	Fort McMurray
Chamaedaphne calyculata	Leather-leaf									+
Vaccinium myrtilloides	Blueberry									+
PRIMULACEAE (Primrose Family)										
Androsace chamaejasme										
A. septentrionalis	Sweet-flowered Androsace		+	+						
Dodecatheon sp.	Fairy Candelabra	+	+	+	+	+		+		+
D. conjugens	Shooting Star	+			+					
D. radicatum	Shooting Star		+	+						
Primula mistassinica	Shooting Star			+						
	Dwarf Canadian Primrose			+						
POLEMONIACEAE (Phlox Family)										
Phlox hoodii	Moss Phlox	+								
BORAGINACEAE (Borage Family)										
Lappula echinata	Blue-bur							+		
Lithospermum incisum	Narrow-leaved Puccoon	+		+				+		
L. ruderale	Woolly Gromwell	+	+							
Mertensia paniculata	Tall Lungwort				+					
LABIATAE (Mint Family)										
Glecoma hederacea	Ground Ivy				+					
SCROPHULARIACEAE (Figwort Family)										
Collinsia parviflora	Blue-eyed Mary			+						
Penstemon nitidus	Smooth Blue Beard-tongue	+								
LENTIBULARIACEAE (Bladderwort Family)										
Pinguicula vulgaris	Common Butterwort			+						

FAMILY SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	Calgary	Yamuska	Banff-Canmore	Stettler-Buffalo L.	Torfield	Drayton Valley	Jasper National Park	Grande Prairie	Fort McMurray
PLANTAGINACEAE (Plantain Family)										
Plantago eriopoda	Plantain				+					
P. major	Common Plantain			+						
RUBIACEAE (Madder Family)										
Galium trifidum	Small Bedstraw				+					
Houstonia longifolia	Long-leaved Bluets									+
CAPRIFOLIACEAE (Honeysuckle Family)										
Lonicera dioica	Twining Honeysuckle				+					
L. involucrata	Bracted Honeysuckle			+		+				+
L. villosa	Fly Honeysuckle									+
ADOXACEAE (Moschatel Family)										
Adoxa moschatellina	Moschatel						+			+
VALERIANACEAE (Valerian Family)										
Valeriana septentrionalis	Northern Valerian		+							
COMPOSITAE (Composite Family)										
Antennaria sp.	Pussytoes		+							
A. neglecta	Broad-leaved Pussytoes					+	+			
A. nitida	Small-flowered Pussytoes		+		+	+				
A. parviflora	Low Pussytoes	+	+		+				+	
A. pulcherrima	Showy Everlasting				+					
A. rosea	Pink Pussytoes				+					
Erigeron compositus	Cut-leaved Fleabane		+	+				+		
Petasites palmatus	Palmate-leaved Coltsfoot			+			+			+
P. sagittatus	Arrow-leaved Coltsfoot		+	+	+		+	+	+	+

FAMILY SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	Calgary	Yamnuska	Banff-Canmore	Stettler-Buffalo L.	Tofield	Drayton Valley	Jasper National Park	Grande Prairie	Fort McMurray
Taraxacum ceratophorum	Dandelion	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
T. officinale	Common Dandelion		+	+						
Townsendia sericea	Low Townsendia									

Total number of species 164.

ALBERTA CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE PRAIRIE NEST RECORDS SCHEME - 1979

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Ten Alberta observers contributed to the Prairie Nest Records Scheme in 1979. Many more are needed. Please write to Herbert W.R. Copland, Manitoba Museum of Man and Nature, 190 Rupert Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3B ON2 for cards and instructions. The highlight for Alberta in 1979 was a Whooping Crane nest reported by Ernie Kuyt, as also occurred in 1978 (Kuyt 1978). In addition 130 cards from Alberta were filed for nests found in 1977 and 1978.

Alberta reporters were: B.J. Markham for Alberta Energy & Natural Resources; Daniel Brunton; John E. Christie; W.J. Crins; Dodds, Tomlinson & Associates, E. Kuyt; Brian Nicolai; Ken & Jan Trann; and Eric Wallace.

Species on which nests were reported were: Horned Grebe - 1; Eared Grebe - 1; Mallard - 4; Pintail - 1; American Green-winged Teal - 1; Blue-winged Teal - 1; Redhead - 2; Canvasback - 2; Lesser Scaup - 6; White-winged Scoter - 2; Ruddy Duck - 3; Red-tailed Hawk - 1; Swainson's Hawk - 1; Bald Eagle - 2; Marsh Hawk - 1; Osprey - 3; Merlin - 1; Ruffed Grouse - 1; Gray Partridge - 1; Whooping Crane - 1; Sora - 1; American Coot - 6; Common Snipe - 1; Spotted Sandpiper - 2; American Avocet - 2 nests on 1 card; Black Tern - 2 nests on 1 card; Mourning Dove - 1; Great Horned Owl - 6; Long-eared Owl - 2; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker - 1; Northern Three-toed Woodpecker - 2; Eastern Kingbird - 2; Great Crested Flycatcher - 1; Horned Lark - 1; Barn Swallow - 2; Purple Martin - 2; Black-billed Magpie - 7; Common Crow - 5; Long-billed Marsh Wren - 1; Rock Wren - 1; American Robin - 2; Cedar Waxwing - 2; Yellow Warbler - 1; House Sparrow - 1; Yellow-headed Blackbird - 2; Red-winged Blackbird - 22 on 8 cards; Northern (Baltimore) Oriole - 1; Brewer's Blackbird - 7; American Goldfinch - 5; Clay-colored Sparrow - 1; Song Sparrow - 1.

Literature Cited

Copland, H.W.R. 1979. Prairie Nest Record Scheme 1979. Manitoba Mus. Man and Nature, Winnipeg.

Kuyt, E. 1978. A modern nesting record for Whooping Cranes in Alberta. Blue Jay 36:147-149.

[1] based on report by Copland (1979).

DEADLINES FOR PROJECT REPORTS

1. Alberta Flowering Dates - 31 October 1980
   Return to: Dr. Charles D. Bird
   Box 165
   Mirror, Alberta
   TOB 3CO

2. Alberta Christmas Bird Counts - 15 January 1981
   Mail to: Virginia Lang Young
   R. R. #1
   Busby, Alberta
   TOG OHO
   - where full count is to be published elsewhere, indicate reference as it should be cited.

3. Species Count Day (May) - Birds and Mammals - 15 July 1980
   Mail to: Allen N. Wiseley
   509 - 321 - 10 St. N.W.
   Calgary, Alberta
   T2N 1V7

4. Species Count Day (May) - Plants - 15 July 1980
   Mail to: J. Derek Johnson
   Northern Forest Research Centre
   5320 - 122 Street
   Edmonton, Alberta
   T6H 3S5

5. Prairie Nest Records Scheme - 1 October 1980
   Return to: Herbert W.R. Copland
   Manitoba Museum of Man & Nature
   190 Rupert Avenue
   Winnipeg, Manitoba
   R3B ON2

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DEADLINES for submission of material are: January 15; April 15; July 15; and October 15. Please include your mailing address and telephone number. All maps and charts should be submitted on 8½ x 11" (or 8½ x 7") white bond. Please indicate in light pencil any data which are to be typed on charts, maps, etc. Black and white photographs, slides or drawings are welcomed.

FAN MEMBERSHIP FEES are: Regular, $6.00 per year; supporting, $10.00 or more per year, with the excess over $6.00 being deductible from taxable income. Mail remittance to: Federation of Alberta Naturalists, Box 1472, Edmonton, Alberta T5J 2N5. All members now contribute $1.00 of their $6.00 membership to the "Bucks for Wildlife" program.

- -

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(DETACH AND MAIL)

FLOWERING DATE OBSERVATIONS

This form is for those who live on a farm or acreage or who can record data for a particular location. Flowering is interpreted as meaning that sepals and/or petals are open. Please mail the completed form by the end of October. The compiler will be happy to answer questions or identify pressed specimens or photos.

Observer(s) _____ Year _____

Location _____

Species	First date in flower	Later dates	Last date
Prairie Crocus			
Aspen			
Early Blue Violet			
Golden Bean			
Saskatoon			
Star-flowered Solomon's-seal			
Choke Cherry			
Yellow Pea Vine			
Northern Bedstraw			
Common Yarrow			
Western Wood Lily			
Brown-eyed Susan			

		Lethbridge Area	Calgary Area	Canmore Area	Red Deer Area	Stettler Area	Edmonton Area	All six areas
Prairie Crocus	78	Ap 2	Ap 4	Ap 5	Ap 30	My 28	Ap 18	Ap 2
	6 yr avg	Ap 12	Ap 15	Ap 15	Ap 17	Ap 14	Ap 16	Ap 1
Aspen	78		Ap 7	Ap 3	Ap 30	Ap 23	Ap 18	Ap 1
	6 yr avg	Ap 4	Ap 6	Ap 15	Ap 30	Ap 16	Ap 15	Ap 1
Early Blue	78	My 14	My 3	Ap 24	My 30	Ap 3	Ap 30	Ap 2
Violet	6 yr avg	My 3	Ap 26	My 2	My 4	Ap 30	My 1	My 1
Golden Bean	78	My 6	Ap 30	My 7	My 13	Ap 29	My 17	My 7
	6 yr avg	Ap 23	Ap 26	My 10	My 13	My 6	My 10	My 5
Saskatoon	78	My 6	My 12	My 22	My 20	My 17	My 13	My 1
	6 yr avg	My 8	My 9	My 23	My 22	My 17	My 16	My 1
Star-flowered	78	My 13	My 20	My 22	My 27	My 27	My 26	My 2
Solomon's-seal	avg	My 17	My 10	My 22	My 26	My 30	My 30	My 2
Choke Cherry	78	My 27	My 25	Jn 4	My 27	My 28	My 24	My 2
	6 yr avg	My 22	My 23	Jn 6	My 29	My 26	My 21	My 2
Yellow Pea Vine	78		My 25	Jn 2	My 27	My 25	My 17	My 2
	6 yr avg	Jn 4	My 30	Jn 3	Jn 3	My 30	My 26	My 3
Northern	78		Jn 6	Jn 10	Jn 25	Jn 16	Jn 7	Jn 1
Bedstraw	6 yr avg	Jn 16	Jn 5	Jn 12	Jn 17	Jn 8	Jn 12	Jn 1
Common Yarrow	78	Jn 9	My 31	Jn 10	Jn 25	Jn 16	Jn 15	Jn 1
	6 yr avg	My 31	Jn 4	Jn 17	Jn 18	Jn 11	Jn 22	Jn 1
Western Wood	78		Jn 11	Jn 5		Jn 22	Jn 10	Jn 1
Lily	6 yr avg		Jn 18	Jn 14	Jn 24	Jn 24	Jn 26	Jn 2
Brown-eyed	78	Jn 9	Jn 17	Jn 17	Au 13	Jn 26	Jn 7	Jn 1
Susan	6 yr avg	Jn 6	Jn 16	Jn 19	Jy 6	Jn 26	Jy 7	Jn 2

First flowering dates of the twelve best phenology species in six key Alberta Areas.

Dr. C.D. Bird
Phenology Project Coordinator
Federation of Alberta Naturalists
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T0B 3C0

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